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CULTURAL RESOURCE INVESTIGATION OF THE HISTORIC FORT
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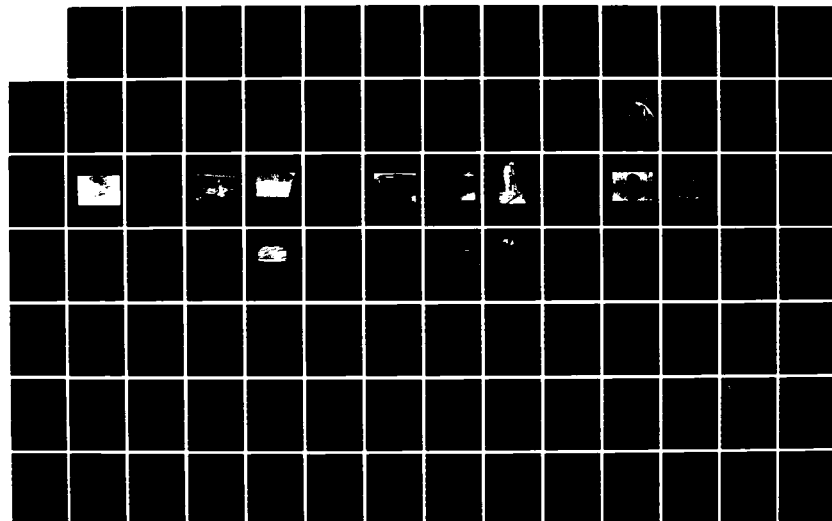
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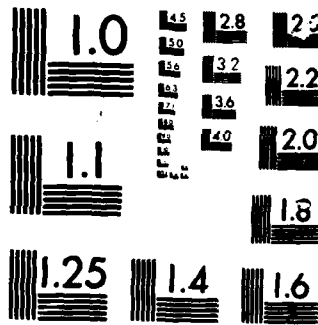
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US Army Corps
of Engineers
Omaha District

PREPARED FOR
OMAHA DISTRICT, U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS
CONTRACT NUMBER: DACW45-85-M-1527

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CULTURAL RESOURCE INVESTIGATION OF THE HISTORIC FORT RANDALL POST CEMETERY GREGORY COUNTY, SOUTH DAKOTA

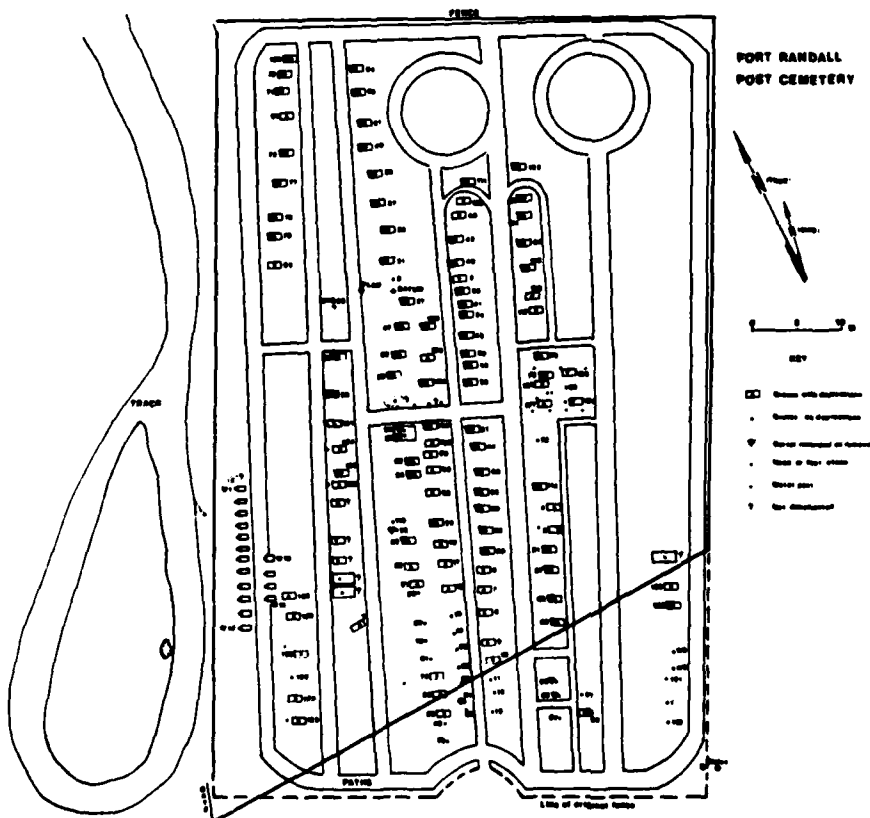
by

L. ADRIEN HANNUS
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AUGUSTANA COLLEGE, SIOUX FALLS, SOUTH DAKOTA
ARCHEOLOGICAL CONTRACT SERIES NUMBER 20

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GREGORY COUNTY, SOUTH DAKOTA

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January 1986

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20. Abstract(continued)

With subsurface coring confirming the presence of graves where depressions were not visible. One grave shown on the original plan to be extant was excavated and found to have been removed. Working with the original cemetery plan, the elaborate network of footpaths was depicted by outlining the borders with a paint-stripping machine. Aerial photos were prepared to provide a visual record of how actual reconstruction of the footpaths might appear. Keywords:

ABSTRACT

The goal of this investigation was to document the original land area of the Fort Randall Post Cemetery, and the number of interments. Remote sensing techniques were utilized to complement the historical documentation. Of 127 graves previously documented, 67 were recorded as having been disinterred and removed to Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, in 1893. Research at the Navy and Old Army Branch of the Military Archives Division of the National Archives located two plans of the cemetery and the official Quartermaster's record of burials. All recorded graves, as well as a number of undocumented graves, were located, with subsurface coring confirming the presence of graves where depressions were not visible. One grave shown on the original plan to be extant was excavated and found to have been removed. Working with the original cemetery plan, the elaborate network of footpaths was depicted by outlining the borders with a paint-stripping machine. Aerial photos were prepared to provide a visual record of how actual reconstruction of the footpaths might appear.

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- II. Pertinent correspondence:
 - a) Earl W. Zieg, Cemetery Branch, Memorial Division, Feb. 1972
 - b) Michael Kirwin, July 1985
 - c) Adeline Gnirk, June 1985
 - d) Almon Adam, June 1985
 - e) Frank Gehlsen, June 1985
 - f) Don Gasper, July 1985
 - g) Janice E. McKenney, Dept. of the Army, Center of Military History, June 1985

- h) Robert H. Gruber, Navy and Old Army Branch, Military Archives Division, July 1985
- i) George C. Chalou, Modern Military Field Branch, Military Archives Division, July 1985
- j) Maida H. Loescher, Military Service Branch, Military Archives Division, July 1985

III. Disposition of graves in the cemetery:

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The current evaluation of the Fort Randall military cemetery represents the culmination of more than a decade of interest expressed by local history aficionados, as well as a concerted effort by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to more effectively interpret cultural resources under their jurisdiction. Particular efforts on the part of Timothy Nowak, Area Archeologist in South Dakota, and Lowell Thomas, Project Manager at the Fort Randall Dam, generated the impetus to allow this investigation to be undertaken. Keen interest and generous support were supplied to the field crew by all U.S. Army Corps of Engineers personnel at Fort Randall. Particular thanks to Jim Sellers, Park Manager; Don Gasper, Powerhouse Manager; and John Kirwin and Roy Profitt, Park Rangers. These individuals not only made our fieldwork much more enjoyable, but greatly facilitated a number of activities.

A number of residents in the Fort Randall area responded to written requests for historical information relating to the old Fort Randall cemetery, including Frank Gehlsen, Almon Adam, and Adeline Gnirk. We are most appreciative of their contributions. Michael Kirwin responded to our written requests and spent considerable time with us during the field phase, sharing additional documentation including numerous photographs of various phases of the Fort Randall complex, which were very helpful. We are especially indebted to Robert Gruber, archivist with the Old Army and Navy Branch of the National Archives, who located the official Quartermaster register of burials and crucial cemetery plans. This documentation proved pivotal in our fieldwork phase.

Cal Calabrese, Director, and Bob Nickel of the Midwest Archaeological Center in Lincoln, Nebraska graciously made available their soil resistivity instrument. Jan Griesenbrock provided excellent assistance in accomplishing the initial aerial photographic record and has expertly produced our photo images for the project. Thanks also to Tom Stirling of Lake Andes High School who kindly supplied the use of the striping machine, allowing a reconstruction of the cemetery footpaths.

Finally, a special thanks to Gene Anderson of the Sioux Falls Chapter of the South Dakota Archaeological Society, who took several days of valuable vacation time to join us in the field phase and provided a yeoman's level of assistance.

The Archeology Laboratory of the Center for Western Studies contracted with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Omaha District, in April 1985 to conduct a cultural resource investigation of the historic Fort Randall Post Cemetery. The survey was to include the use of several remote sensing techniques. The outcome of this investigation is presented in the following report. The report is organized chronologically, beginning with the research orientation and background information on the cemetery known prior to the present investigation. This section is followed by a discussion of the expanded literature search and initial remote sensing application of false color infrared aerial photography and the coinciding on-ground evaluation.

A redirection during Phase II of the field investigation was instigated after the discovery of two plans of the cemetery [1879 and 1891(?)] in the National Archives. Acquisition of the cemetery plans and burial registration records served to nullify the application of the resistivity testing and soil analysis. Following discussion with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Area Archeologist and Technical Officer, Timothy Nowak, plans were made to "reconstruct" [by painting the border margins of the footpaths and grave layouts] the cemetery on the ground and accomplish a second photographic aerial overflight of the reconstructed cemetery to enhance the interpretive value of this project.

Given the revised approach, the report then details the mapping and reconstruction processes at the cemetery. An overview of the known Fort Randall cemetery history and outline of nineteenth century funerary practices -- death and demography on the Dakota frontier -- completes the investigative portion of the report. The summary, with discussion and recommendations based on the research, completes the main body of the report. The few artifacts recovered from the cemetery are curated at the South Dakota Archaeological Research Center, Ft. Meade. Original records are filed at the Archeology Laboratory of the Center for Western Studies, Augustana College, Sioux Falls, SD.

At the time of contract award no extant plans were known to exist for the cemetery; however, some incomplete documentation of the burial record was available. These documents indicated that the first recorded burial associated with Fort Randall was of PVT Thomas Rourke on 25

August 1856. The last documented interment was of a civilian, Sarah M. Cook, on 8 January 1890. Between these dates 66 officers and enlisted men were indicated to have been interred in the cemetery. In addition, historic records suggested at least 61 other non-military interments were accomplished, for a total grave count of 127.

Additional information available at the inception of this research included correspondence from the Department of the Army, Office of the Chief of Support Services, Cemetery Branch, Memorial Division [Appendix II (a)] indicating that, in June 1893, the remains of 62 officers and enlisted men, four children and one civilian woman were removed from the cemetery and reinterred at the Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, National Cemetery. (The records indicate the removal of 67 individuals in 68 boxes. This apparent discrepancy is not explained.)

It was also suspected that some graves lay outside the presently defined cemetery limits, in an area of agricultural disturbance to the south of the existing fenceline. Therefore, one of several research tasks was to determine whether this was the case, and if so, to redefine the original boundaries of the cemetery.

Research efforts began with a literature search focused on establishing correspondence with individuals and institutions thought to possess or have access to further information about the cemetery. The primary goal was to obtain information about the original number and location of interments in the cemetery, any disinterments and their current status. Secondly, any information about other physical aspects of the cemetery was sought. Additional information on the persons buried and the overall context of military cemeteries and nineteenth century funerary practices was the third focus of the literature search.

The field investigations were planned in the following sequence: 1) aerial photographic survey using black and white, color and infrared film; 2) on-ground evaluation and contour mapping survey; and 3) subsurface coring, excavation and resistivity surveying. The photography and on-ground evaluation, coupled with the literature search, served to delimit the areas requiring more detailed investigation for the postulated extension of the cemetery beyond the existing fenced perimeter.

Description of Remote Sensing Techniques

Resistivity surveying is a remote sensing technique designed to locate buried archeological (and geological) features (Tite 1972:25-31). The procedure involves applying a voltage, via metal electrodes inserted into the ground, and measuring the resistance to the flow of electrical current. In theory a feature such as a grave pit will have a different soil water content than the surrounding, undisturbed soil and hence measure a different electrical resistance. Prospecting with resistivity surveying equipment can be a slow process, and interpretation of the results is sometimes ambiguous. Different electrode spacing and configurations produce different readings over the same features. However, in the case of the Fort Randall Post Cemetery, a number of graves are already located and it might be assumed that they are laid out in a regular pattern. Also, the type of feature (a grave) is known and the approximate depth can be estimated (3-6 feet). It was proposed to undertake linear traverses extending beyond the known limits of every line of graves to try and locate additional anomalies that could then be tested (cored) to confirm or reject their status as graves.

Infrared photography is a remote sensing technique that can reveal buried archeological features:

Color infra red film has three layers sensitized to green, red and infra red. A yellow filter is used to screen out blue light which is undesirable for this medium. This film, also referred to as false-color infra red film....detects reflected solar radiation at the near end of the electromagnetic spectrum, or slightly into that portion of the spectrum invisible to the human eye. The differential reflection from various cultural and natural features is translated into distinctive "false" colors (Gummerman and Lyons 1971:129).

In many archeological situations, however, it is not so much that features show up as different colors but as different tones. One problem is that modern or recent activities often are exhibited as anomalies on the photograph. While these are often obvious, some can be confused with anomalies from the archeological features.

The aerial photography of the Fort Randall cemetery was accomplished in late May, having first established a metric grid on the ground, its limits being demarcated with white plastic panels to provide scaled reference points for the aerial photographs.

Just prior to the second session of fieldwork scheduled for mid-July, notification was received from Robert H. Gruber, an archivist with the Navy and Old Army Branch of the Military Archives Division of the National Archives, that he had located a register of burials at Fort Randall which listed some 138 graves, including 22 unknown, and 2 plans of the cemetery (Figures 1 and 2). Because of this important development, fieldwork was postponed until copies of these records arrived.

Discovery of these key pieces of archival documentation precipitated a significant redirection of the fieldwork schedule. It was now possible to undertake an authenticated reconstruction of the cemetery plan to include grave identification by individual, footpaths and original perimeter boundaries. Hence, the time that would have been allocated to resistivity surveying and aerial photographic interpretation was now shifted to a full reconstruction process. A number of steps to gain clarity of definition were initiated which included: 1) the grass was mowed very short within the existing fenced area, as well as into the alfalfa field to the south, in order to reveal the shallow grave depressions that existed; 2) the existing south fence line was removed to expedite surveying the original south boundary; 3) each grave was flagged and numbered according to the graves registration plans (in several instances depressions did not exist and had to be measured in from the plans, which proved to be somewhat stylized); 4) coring with a 3 inch bucket auger was done to establish presence of casket/bone; 5) a contour map and plan of the cemetery as it exists today was made and annotated from the old plans (Figures 3, 4a, 4b and 5); 6) a paint-stripping machine was utilized to demarcate the original footpaths; and 7) a complete photographic record was made of the cemetery, including the extant grave stones, views from a boom (60 feet high) truck and new aerial shots.

**PLAN
OF
CEMETERY,
FORT RANDALL.D.T.**

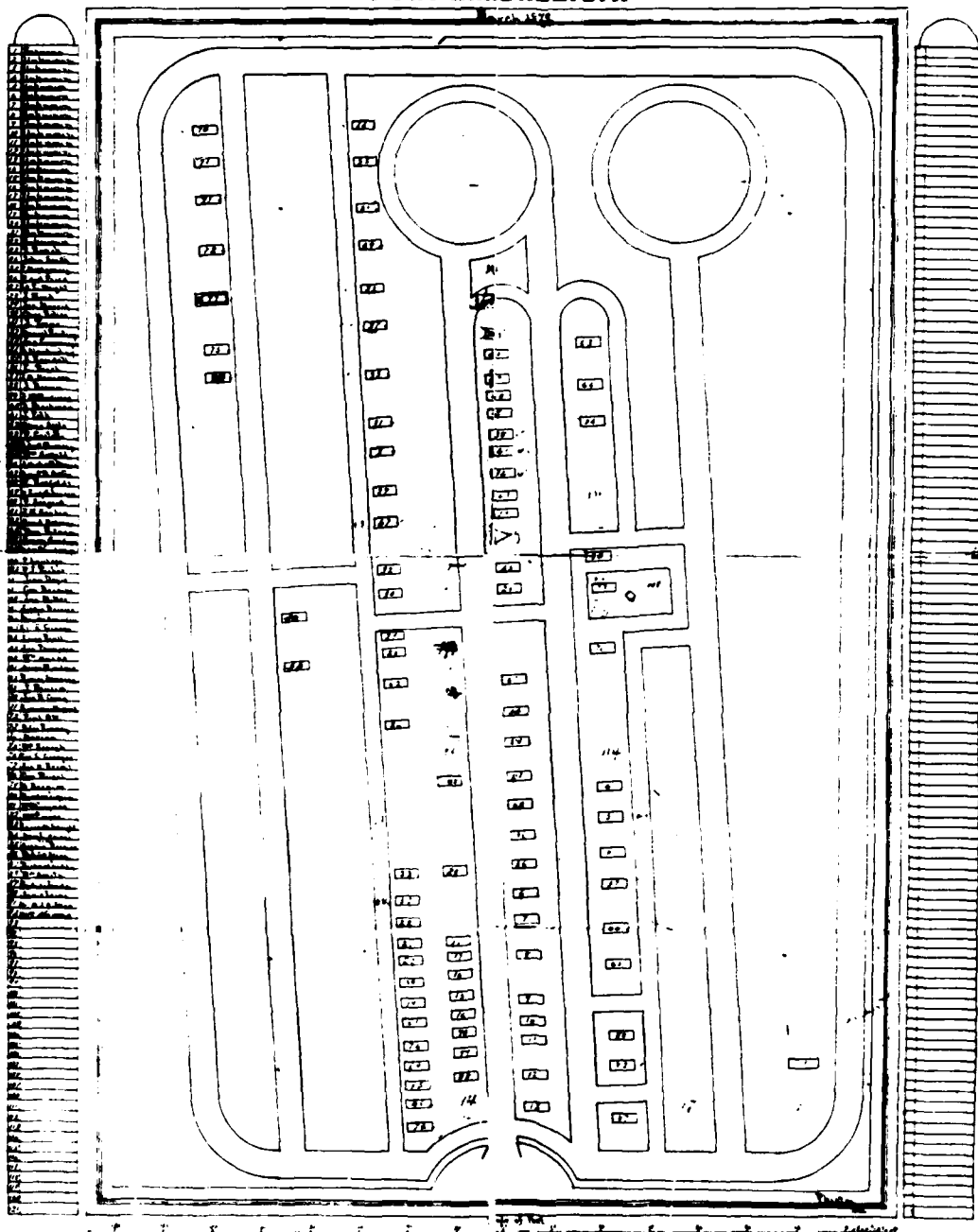


Figure 1. 1879 plan of the cemetery at scale of 1:500.

PLAN OF CEMETERY FORT RANDALL S.D.

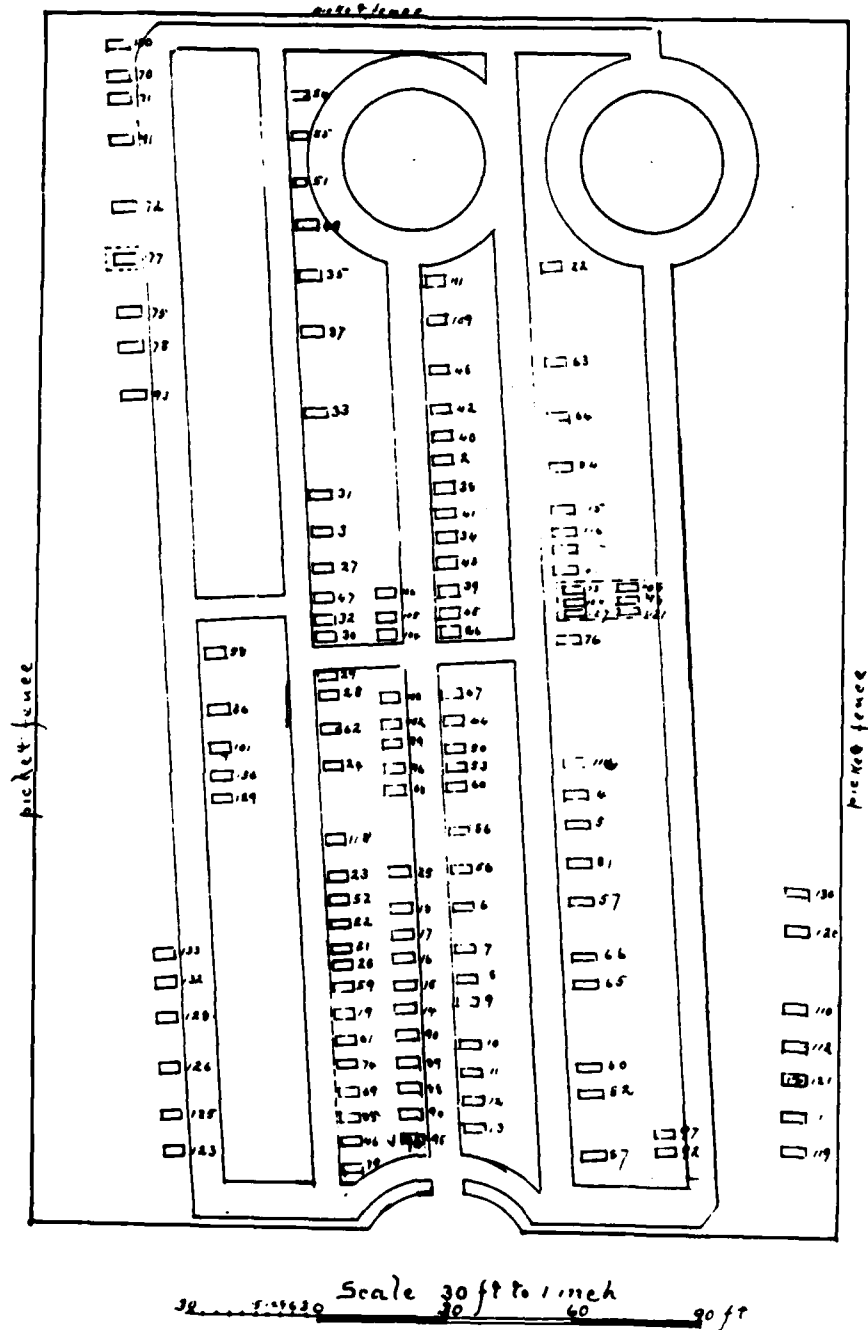


Figure 2. Undated (ca. 1891) plan of the cemetery at scale of 1:500.

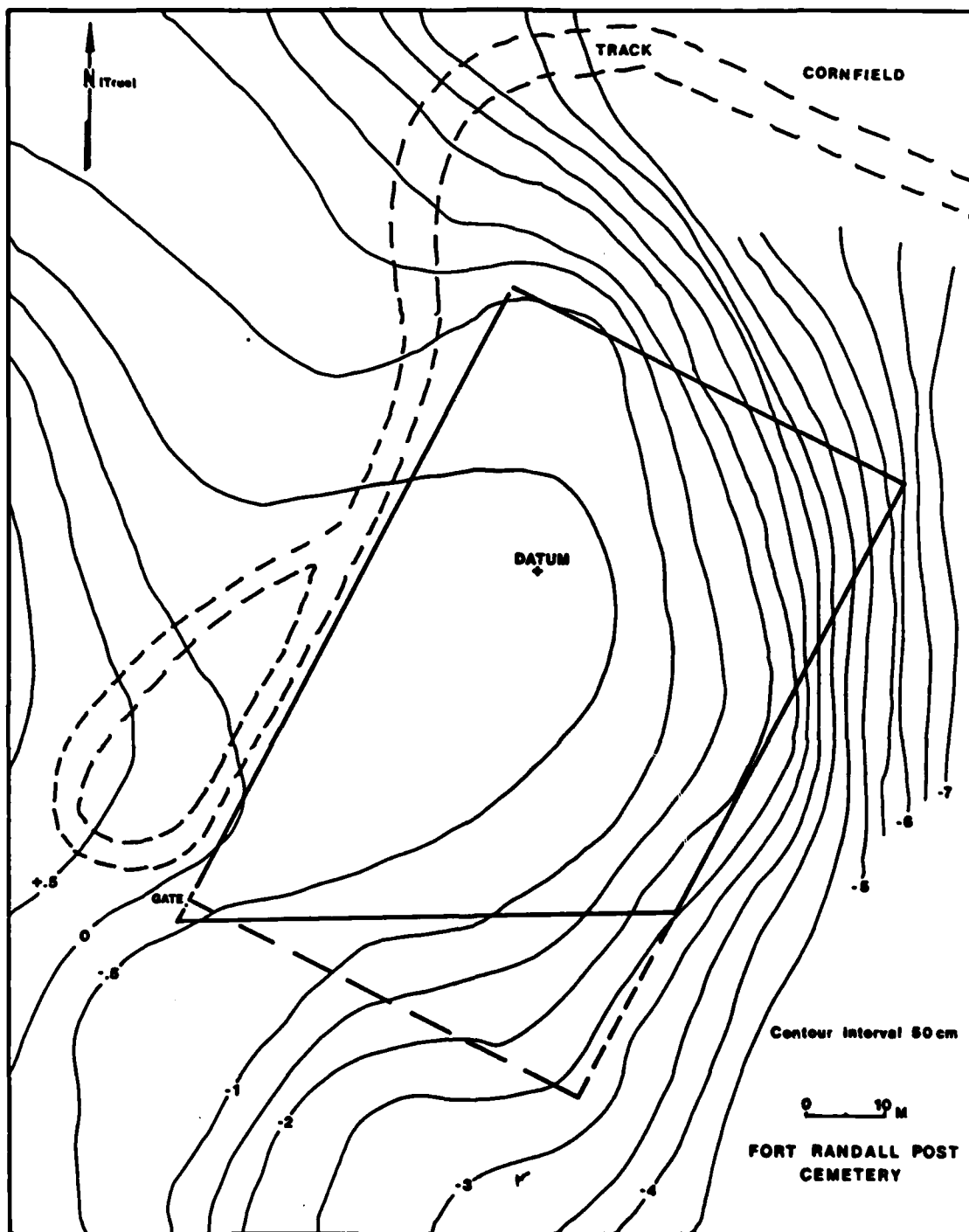


Figure 3. Contour map of the cemetery area.

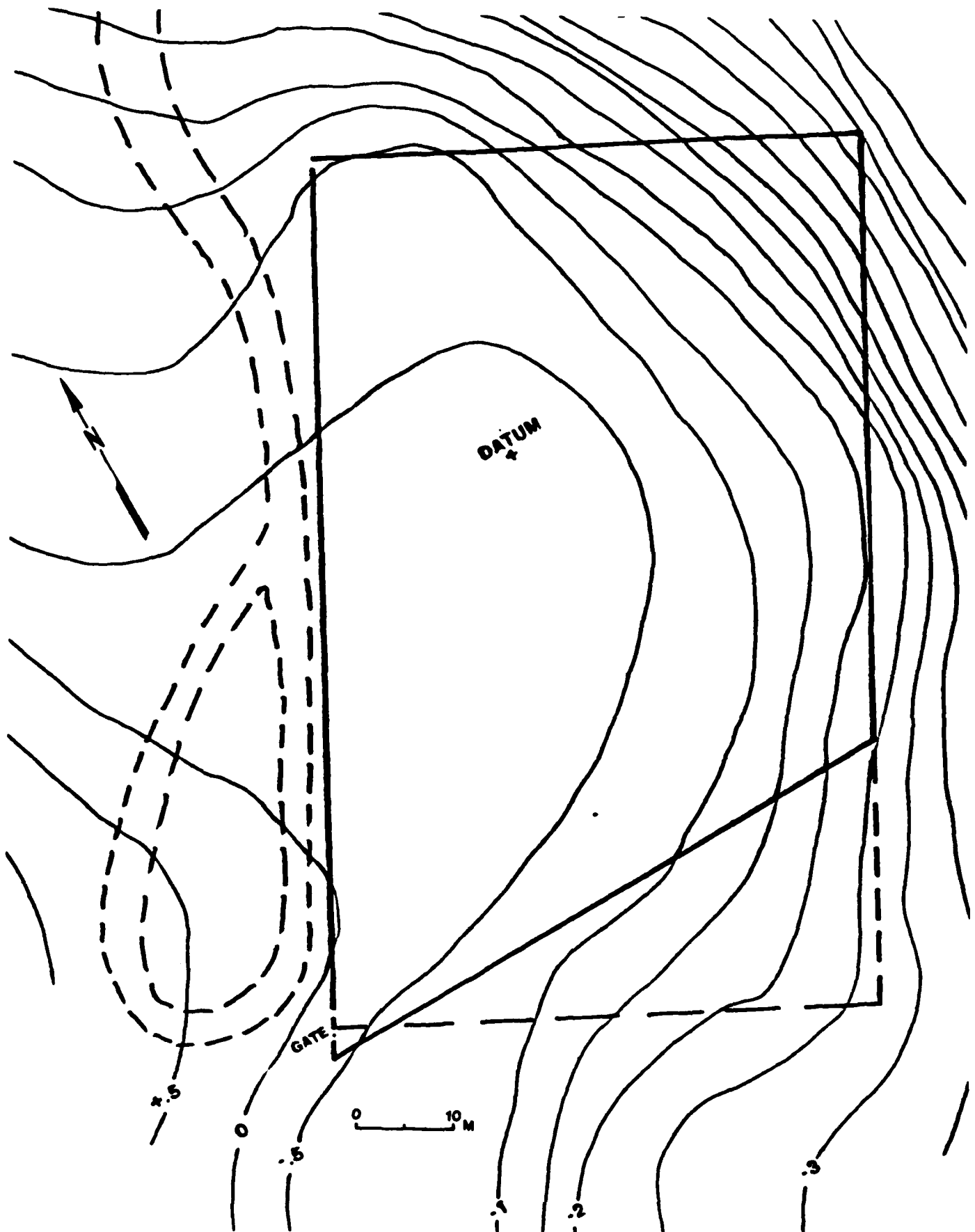


Figure 4a. Enlargement of contour map (Figure 3) to scale of 1:500.

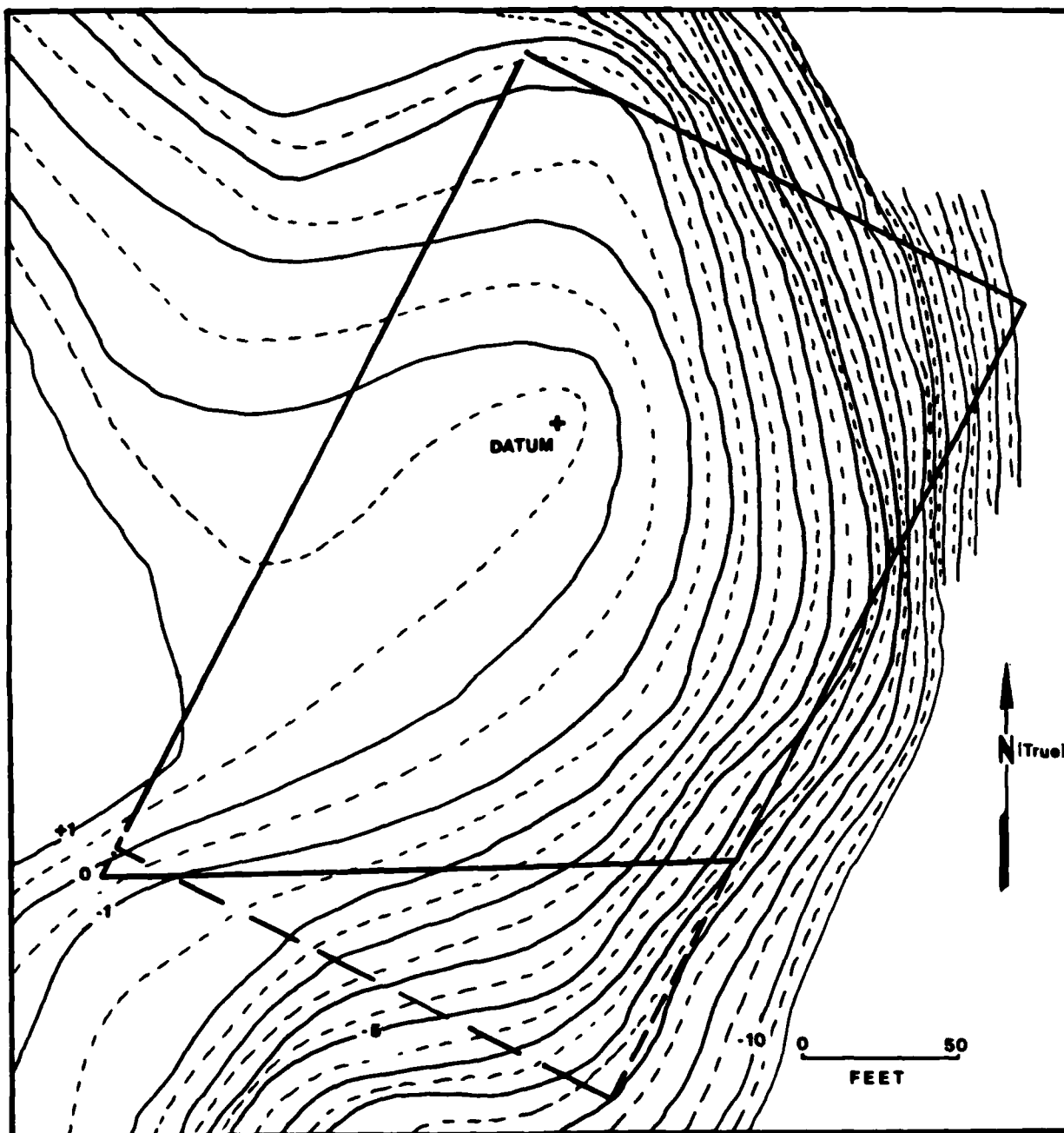


Figure 4b. Contour map of the Fort Randall Post cemetery area at a scale of 1" = 50', with contours at 1' intervals, with $\frac{1}{2}'$ supplemental contours.

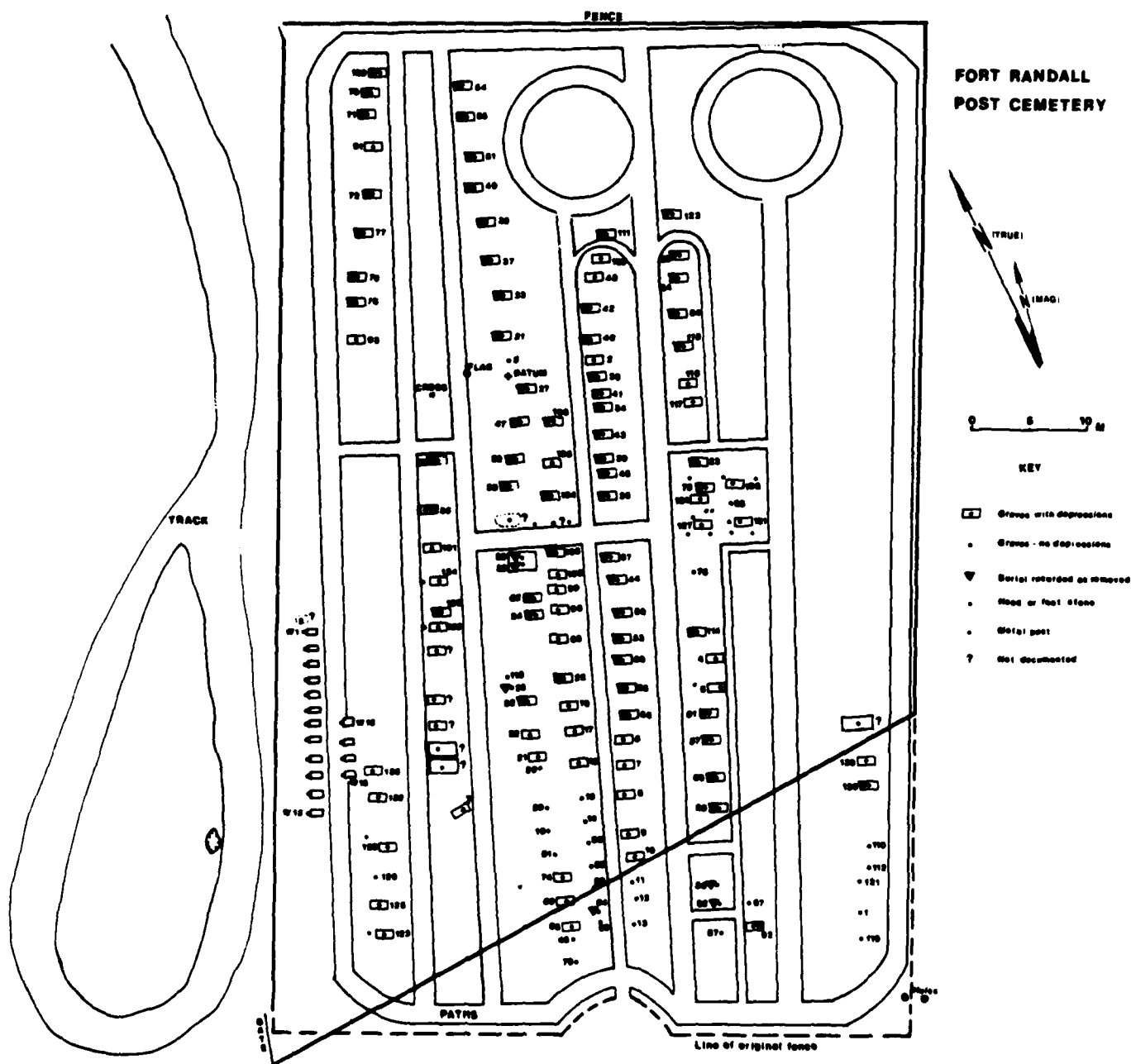


Figure 5. Plan of the existing cemetery at scale of 1:500.

The Fort Randall Post Cemetery is located in southeastern Gregory County in south central South Dakota (Figure 6). This area is within the Fort Randall Study Unit as defined within South Dakota's archeological management plan. This study unit includes portions of Gregory, Douglas, and Hutchinson counties and all of Charles Mix county.

The cemetery is situated on a small flattened ridge on a hill slope above the bottomlands of the Missouri River. The soils in this area are classified as belonging to the Samsil association of shallow, clayey soils underlain with shale and other mixed soils on steep slopes. The elevation of the site is between 1340 and 1360 feet amsl, sloping steeply to the east (see Figure 3).

This area lies on the boundary between the Missouri River Trench and the Pierre Hills regions of South Dakota (Westin and Malo 1978:11). The climate is a continental type, with cold winters and hot summer temperatures. Annual precipitation averages just under 21 inches (Sphuler et al. 1971). Native vegetation in this area includes medium and short grasses such as needleandthread, green needlegrass, western wheatgrass, blue grama, buffalograss and little bluestem. While much of the area is in rangeland, cultivation is encroaching on the land more and more. A portion of the south margin of the cemetery site has been under cultivation since the late 1890s and is currently planted in alfalfa.

Investigations at the cemetery were accomplished in two phases: the initial phase extended from May 22-24; and the second phase spanned the period July 22-26, 1985. During the first period the weather conditions were dry, partly overcast, cool and windy. In July there was more sun, the temperatures were warmer, and one thunderstorm occurred.

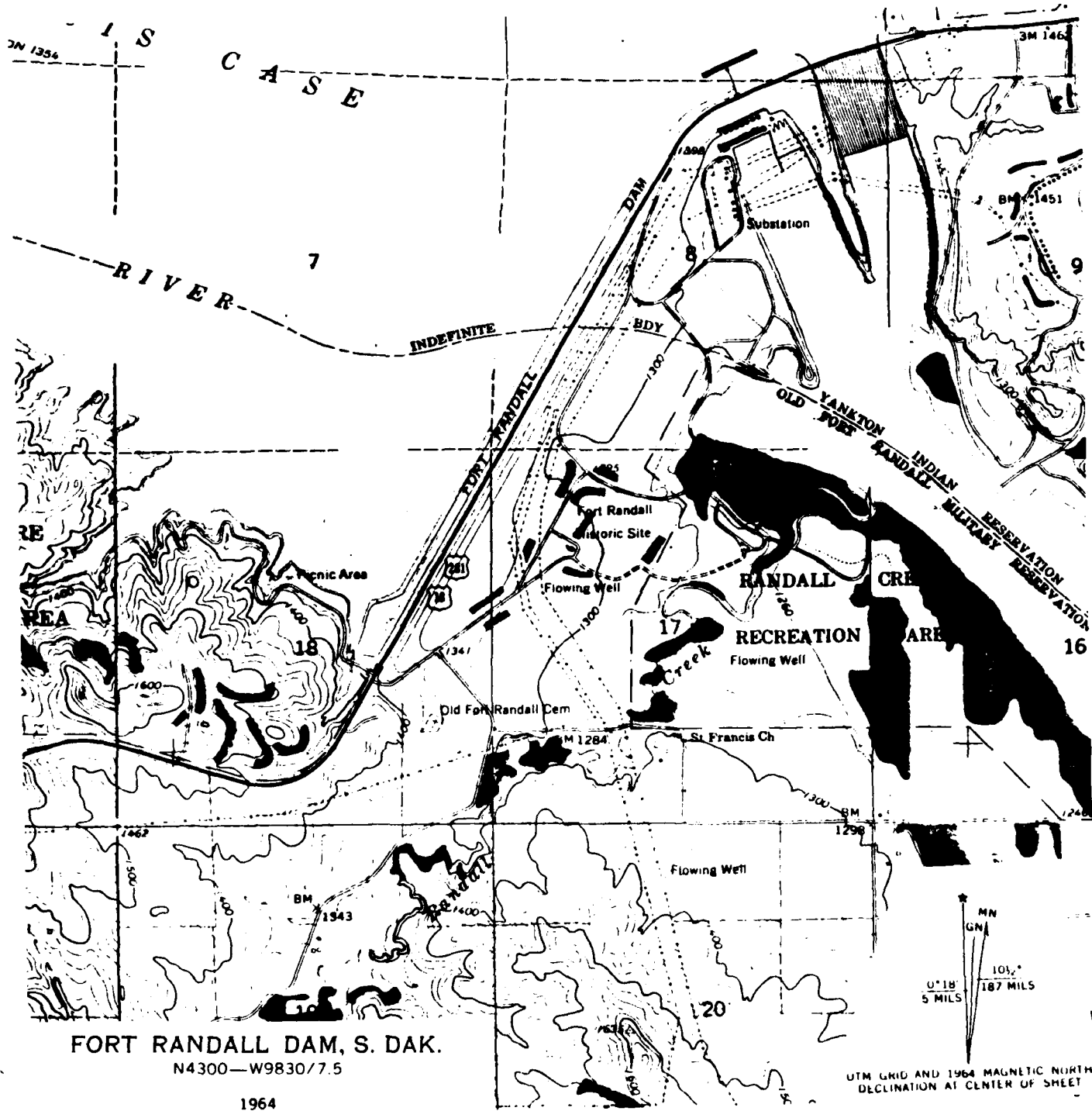


Figure 6. Location of Ft. Randall Post Cemetery on U.S.G.S.
7.5' Quadrangle Map (Ft. Randall Dam, SD).

1) Literature Search

Prior to the present research effort a number of individuals and groups had collected data relating to the Fort Randall cemetery. A basic corpus of this information had been amalgamated by personnel of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and was provided as a baseline data set. From these initial references additional source names were derived which facilitated our research effort. Because of the limited budget and timeframe of this project, a cutoff date was established after which no further follow-up of sources was attempted. A list of additional inquiries that could be made is presented in Chapter 6. A copy of the letter sent out to informants is given in Appendix IV.

Letters were sent/contact made with:

1. Roderick Engert, General Reference Branch, Center of Military History, Department of the Army, Washington D.C. (Letter forwarded to Archivist of the United States by Robert Frank).
2. Norman Cary, Museum Branch, Center of Military History, Department of the Army, Washington D.C. (Letter forwarded to Archivist of the United States by Janice McKenney).
3. Adeline Gnirk, Burke, SD.
4. Almon Adam, Bristow, NE.
5. Michael Kirwin, Pickstown, SD.
- 6*. Ed Donlin, Lyon, NE.
7. Frank Gehlsen, Lynch, NE.
8. Timothy Nowak, Archeologist, SD Area, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.
9. The Center for Western Studies, Augustana College.
10. Various branches of the National Archives:
 - *The Archivist of the United States, National Archives and Records Service, Washington;
 - The Navy and Old Army Branch, Military Archives Division (Robert H. Gruber);
 - Modern Military Field Branch of Military Archives (George C. Chalou);
 - Military Service Branch of Military Archives (Maida Loescher).

- 11*. The Council on America's Military Past-USA.
- 12*. Cemetery Branch, Memorial Division, Department of the Army,
Washington D.C.
- 13. Don Gasper, Lake Andes, SD.

LEGEND:

- * Responses were received from all the above, except those that are asterisked (see Appendix II).

Literature reviewed during this project which directly related to Fort Randall included the following documents:

- Drips, J. H. 1894 "Three Years among the Indians in Dakota."
- Gnirk, Adeline 1981 "Saga of the Missouri River Reveille."
- Kenyon, Carleton W. 1950 "History of Fort Randall."
- Mattes, Merrill J. 1949 " Report on Historic Sites in the Fort Randall Reservoir Area, Missouri River, South Dakota."
- Mattes, Merrill J. 1952 "Revival at Old Fort Randall."
- Moran, Denny 1947 "Denny Moran's Reminiscences of Fort Randall, as told to Will G. Robinson in July, 1947."

11) Aerial Photography

Initially only one aerial overflight was planned, but a second was undertaken to record the "reconstructed" plan of the cemetery footpaths. The first overflight was designed to take black and white, color and false color infrared photographs (Plates 1 and 2). On the first flight, which took place on May 23, 1985, a professional photographer, Jan Griesenbrock, accompanied L. Adrien Hannus, Principal Investigator, in a single engine Cessna Skyhawk. Four cameras mounted with a variety of lenses were utilized, as follows:

<u>CAMERA</u>	<u>LENS</u>	<u>FILM TYPE</u>	<u>SHUTTER SPEED</u>	<u>FILTER</u>
Yashica TL	135mm	Infrared	1/250 - F.8	Kodak
Electro X	Yashica ML F/2.8	Ektachrome		Wratten-15
Nikkormat	105mm Auto-micro Nikkor AI F/4	B/W Plus-X 125	1/250 - F.8	U-V
Nikon FM	80-205mm Zoom Vivitar	Ektachrome 100 slide film	1/250 - F.8	--
Nikon FE2	Micro- Nikkor 55mm 1:2.8	Ektachrome 200 slide film	1/250 - F.8	(L37) - U-V

The photographs were taken at an elevation of about 3000 feet. The scale of the photographs can be obtained from the aerial photographic markers originally laid out for this purpose. On Plates 1 and 2 the distance from A-B is 100 meters and from A-C, 50 meters. These photographs revealed many of the grave depressions within the cemetery, but only very faint and inconclusive traces of depressions were visible outside the fenceline on the south side.

On the second flight, which took place on July 26, 1985, L. Adrien Hannus and Edward J. Lueck photographed the area from a Cesna Skyhawk. The photographs taken at that time were from an elevation of 2000 feet, using three cameras and several lenses, as follows:

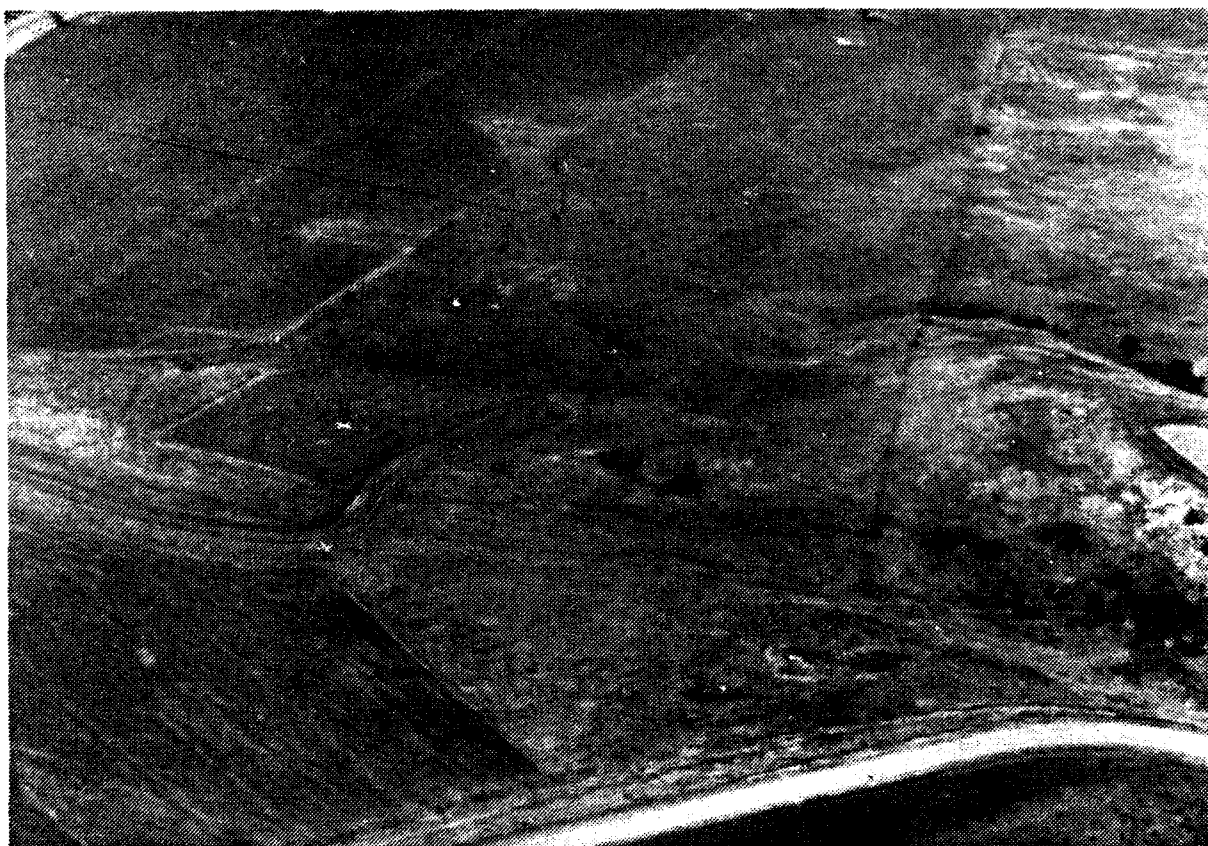


Plate 1. Aerial photograph of the cemetery, June 1985,
with grid points marked (A-B = 100m; A-C = 50m).

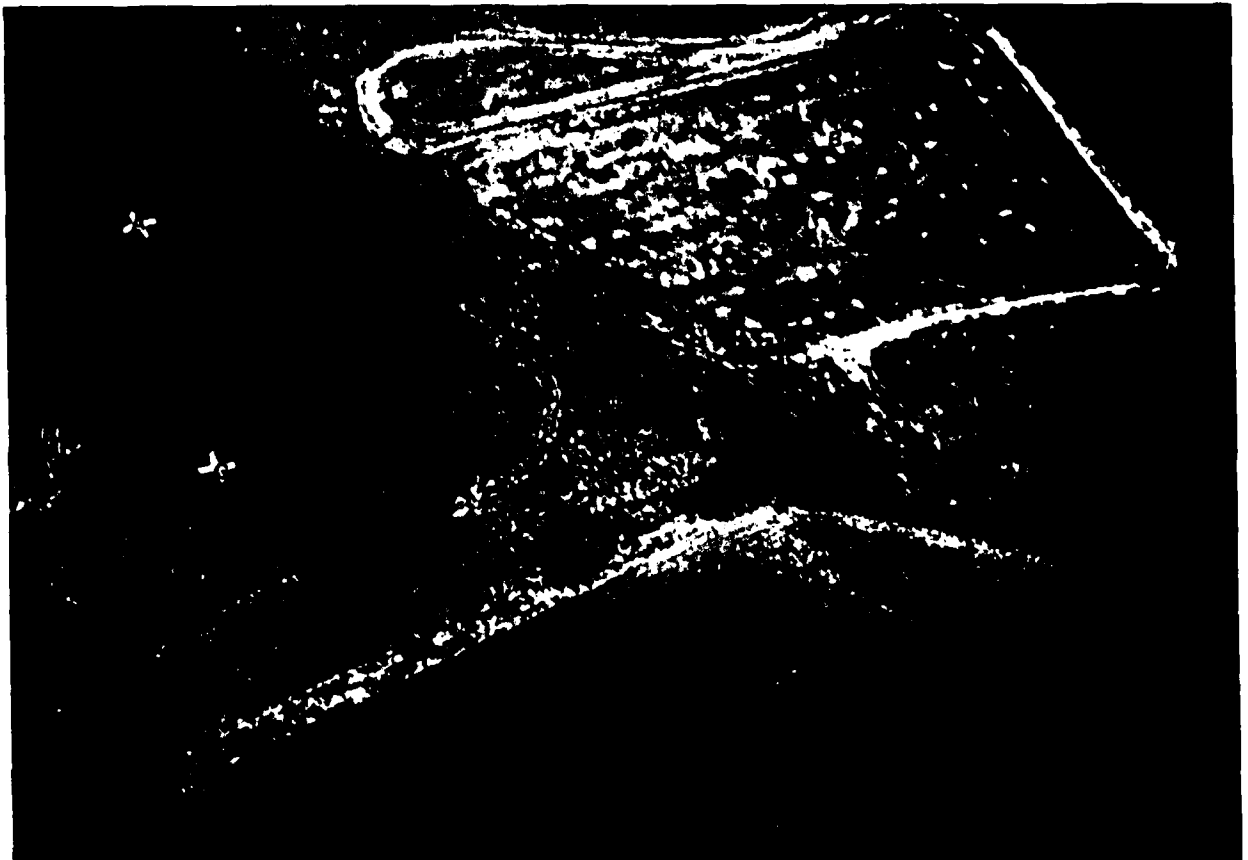


Plate 2. Aerial false color infrared photograph of the cemetery,
June 1985, with grid points marked (A-B = 100m; A-C = 50m).

<u>CAMERA</u>	<u>LENS</u>	<u>FILM TYPE</u>	<u>SHUTTER SPEED</u>	<u>FILTER</u>
Nikon FE2	Micro- Nikkor 55mm 1:2.8	B/W Plus X 125	1/250 - F.8	U-V
Nikkon FE2	" "	Ektachrome 200 slide film	" "	" "
Pentax K-1000	Albinar- Macrozoom 1:3.5-4.5 f=28-80mm	B/W Plus X 125	1/125 - F.8	Rolev Skylight

A series of passovers were accomplished across the cemetery, dipping the wing to produce as perpendicular an axis as possible for the photographic record.

iii) On-Ground Verification

The on-ground examination of the cemetery utilized a variety of techniques. The simplest was to have the area mowed very short, which revealed most of the depressions as well as some of the (slightly raised) pathways.

Subsurface evaluation consisted of the complete excavation of one grave, number 2 (Plates 3 and 4), and the coring of seven additional depressions or areas where the cemetery plans indicated graves should be located. For the coring a three inch bucket auger and one inch screw auger were available, but the bucket auger proved easier and more productive for data recovery.

iv) Mapping

Mapping of the cemetery was begun by establishing a network of grids, 25 meters square, across the entire study area prior to the first aerial overflight. A permanent site datum was established by cementing



Plate 3. Excavating grave number 2.

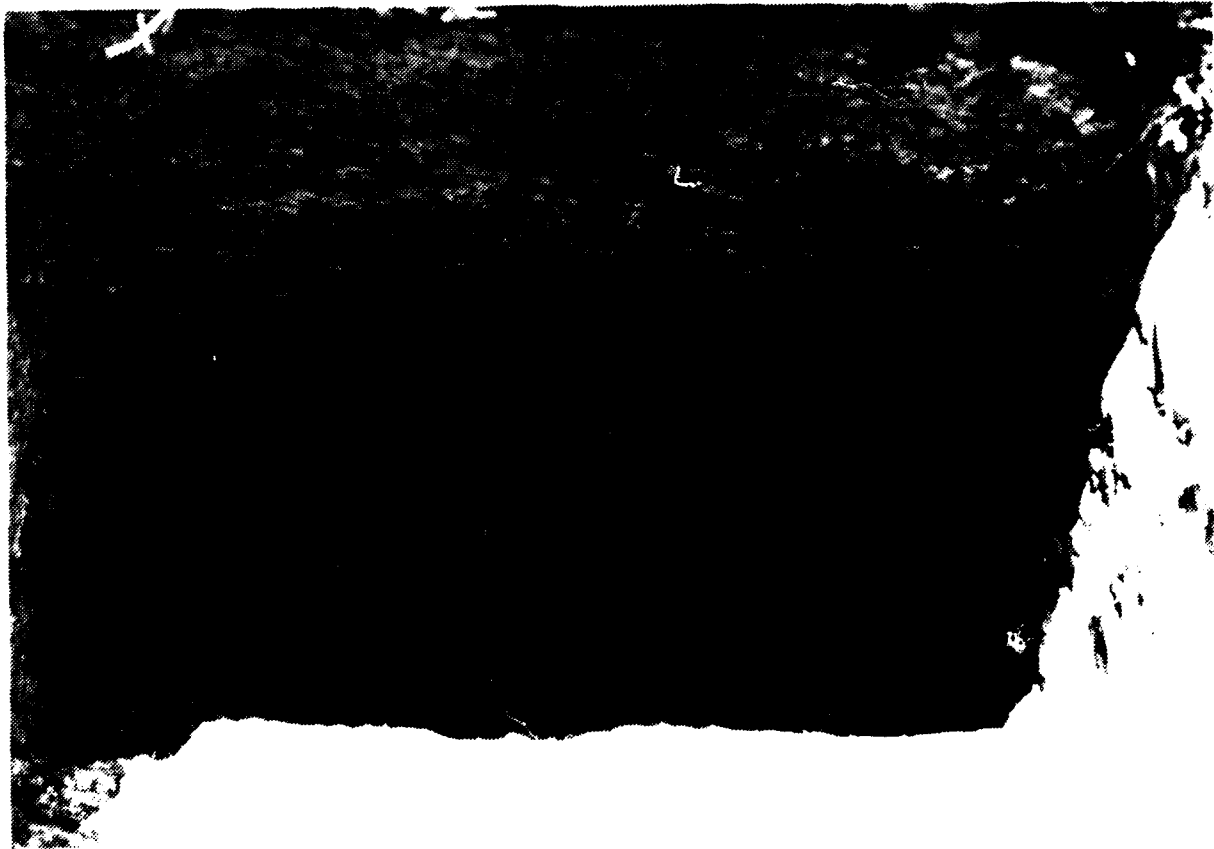


Plate 4. Base of grave number 2, showing fragments of wooden coffin.

a brass U.S. Army Corps of Engineers boundary cap into the site near the present day flag pole at approximately the highest point in the cemetery (refer to Figure 5). Four grid points (demarcating the study area and site datum) were flagged with white plastic panels for the aerial overflight (Plates 1 and 2) to establish a photographic scale to equate to the site plan. For the contour survey a series of east to west and north to south transects were made along the initial grid lines taking readings every meter. Additional readings were then taken to confirm certain contour lines beyond the boundaries of the cemetery. The transparent overlay provided of Figure 5 can be used with the other figures in this report that have been reproduced at a scale of 1:500 for this purpose, namely Figures 1, 2, and 4a.

All the detailed site mapping was accomplished using a theodolite, San Francisco rod and metric chain. For each grave the center of the depression as it appeared on the ground was recorded in horizontal and vertical position.

v) Reconstruction

Utilizing copies of the 1879 and 1891(?) plans of the cemetery for reference, a close on-ground inspection of the present cemetery area was accomplished to relocate extant features. By overlaying the old plans on the newly surveyed map of the cemetery, it was possible to accurately match most of the documented graves. A portion of the south quadrant of the cemetery lay outside the presently fenced area, within a cultivated field of alfalfa. A few depressions were visible, but most of the grave locations had to be extrapolated from the original cemetery plans. A series of locations (Figure 5 - Graves #119, 130, 12, 13, 11, and the two larger unnumbered graves immediately east of grave #133) were cored to confirm their status as graves. Rationale for placement of coring positions was partially dictated by a need to demarcate graves at opposing ends of rows, to provide absolute evidence for grave boundaries.

Having mowed the area, the footpaths became more apparent, and it was possible to lay out the paths and circles shown on the earliest plan with confidence (Plates 5 and 6). To enhance this aspect of data recovery, a paint-stripping machine designed for marking sports fields was utilized. This machine worked well (Plate 7) despite not being

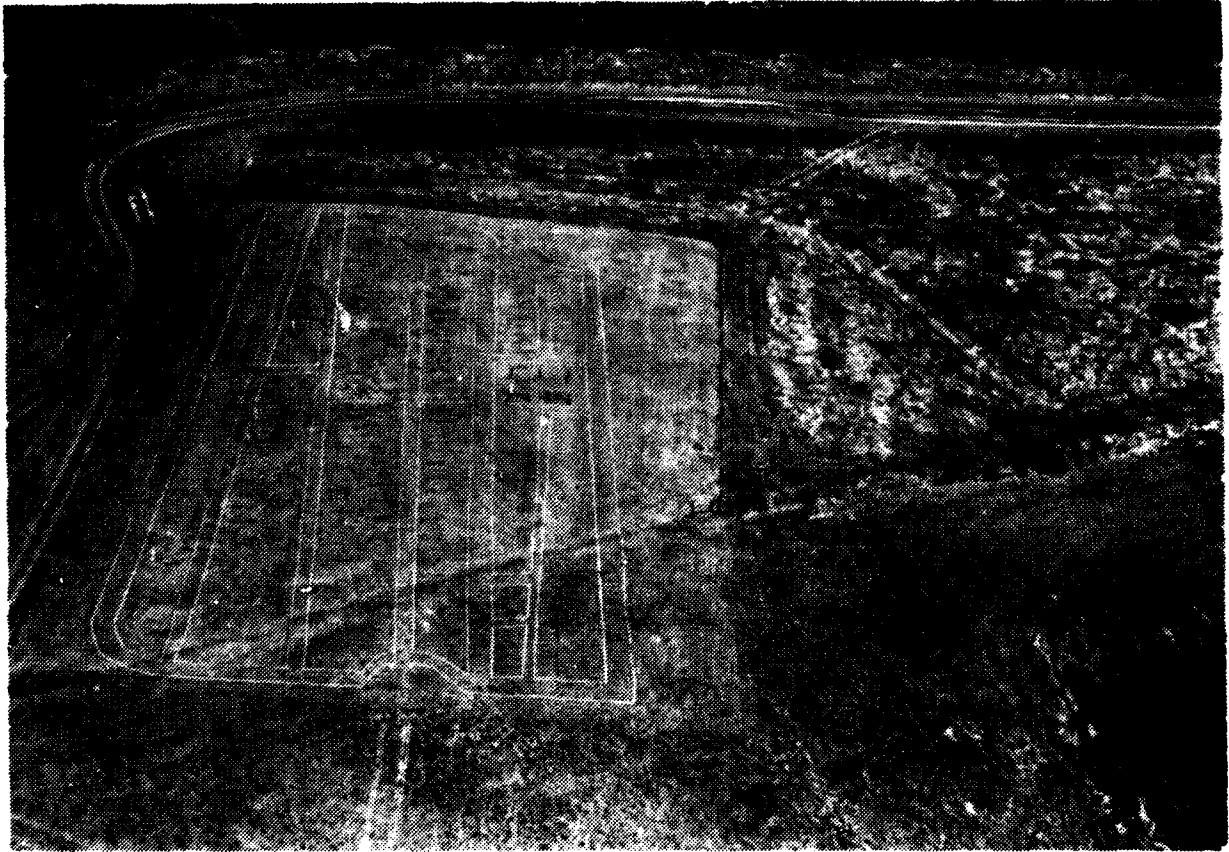


Plate 5. Aerial photograph of reconstructed cemetery plan.



Plate 6. Detail of circular pathways at north end of cemetery.



Plate 7. Striping the cemetery pathways.

built to navigate across semi-rough and steep terrain. The striping process was accomplished over a period of two days. All the original footpath borders were striped except the easternmost path which was not shown on the later plan (1891?), and which was not visible on the ground. However, extrapolation with the theodolite shows this path to have run parallel to the existing east fenceline (see Figure 5).

In addition to the striping, the southern fence which cut at an angle across the cemetery was removed by U.S. Army Corps of Engineers personnel, and a series of wooden stakes were driven in at two meter intervals to re-establish the line of the original picket fence.

vi) Photographic Record

In addition to the aerial photographs a series of black and white and color photographs were taken of the extant grave stones (Plates 8 and 9). Close-ups of parts of the cemetery from ground level were also taken. Finally, a boom truck set to a height of approximately 60 feet was utilized to provide panoramic shots of the cemetery area (Plate 10). These photographs are contained in the archival record.

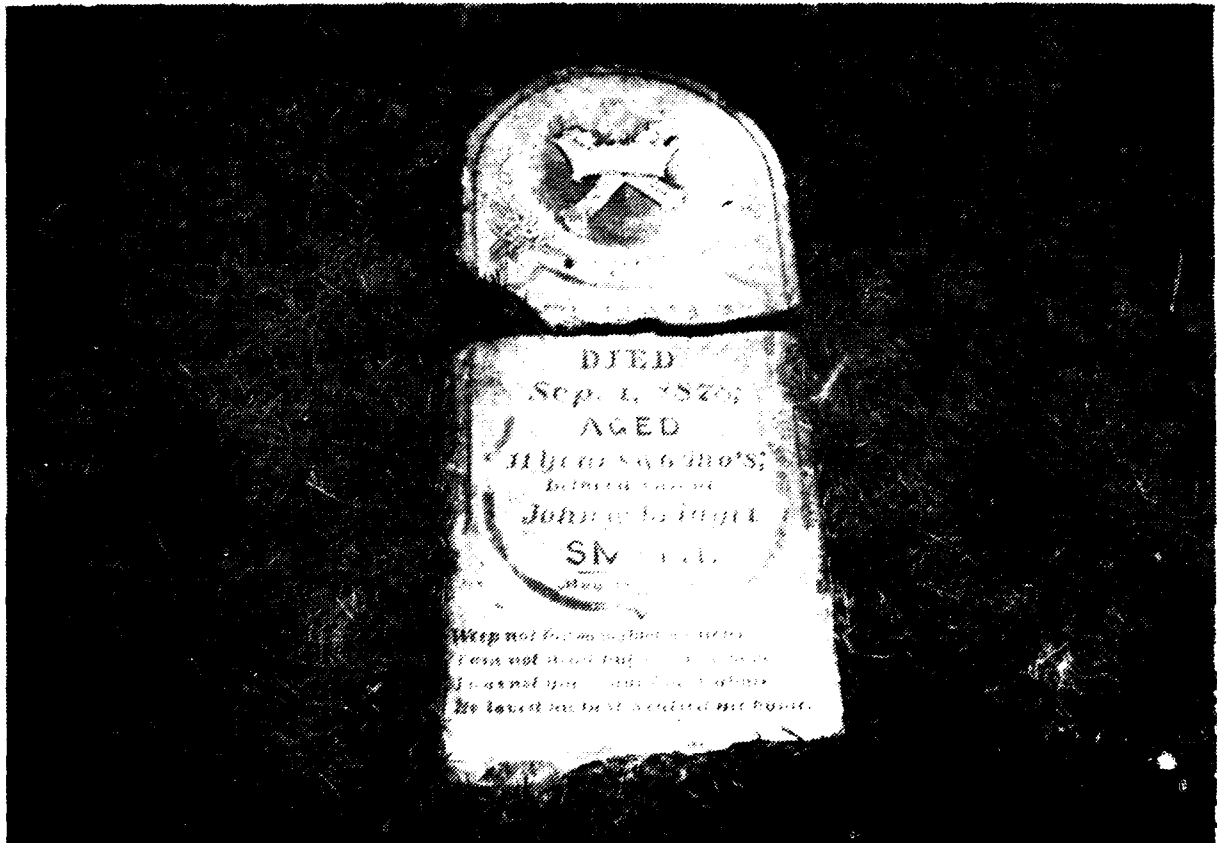


Plate 8. Headstone of J. A. Breckenridge.



Plate 9. Fallen and displaced headstone of William Smith.



Plate 10. Photographing from the boom truck.

The Fort Randall Historic Site and Post Cemetery (39GR15) was placed on the National Register of Historic Places on 22 April 1976. Fort Randall was established on June 26, 1856 on the right (west) bank of the Missouri River and abandoned in 1892. It was the first permanently established military post in South Dakota.

In an article by Mary Williams, entitled "Care of the Dead (and Lack of It) at 19th Century Posts" (1984), frontier post cemeteries are depicted as often being in poor condition prior to the 1880s. Frequently, military cemeteries had no fences leaving them open to damage by livestock. Some posts had no designated burial grounds, graves being dug in various sections of the military reservations.

Unprotected and frequently inadequately marked, numerous grave sites became totally obscured in time. The commanding officer at each post was responsible for the designation and proper maintenance of a cemetery. Yet the duty of furnishing the materials and labor for the upkeep of the cemetery, as well as maintaining accurate burial records, rested with the post quartermaster (Williams 1984:14).

It was during the Civil War when the United States had enlistments from almost every family in the land that the government was forced to make changes in its policies regarding funerary practices on the frontier. National cemeteries were established, burial forms were initiated and graves were marked.

The provisions of the "Act of February 3, 1879" authorized "head-stones for unmarked graves of soldiers" who served in the armed forces of the United States "during the War of the Rebellion" whether they, died in service or after being discharged. This act was interpreted to also provide for permanent markers for soldiers who died during the Indian Wars (Williams 1984:16).

The circumstance at Fort Randall does not seem to have been as derelict as some. There probably was a designated cemetery area from

the time the fort was established, but burial records clearly were not kept up adequately, resulting in an official graves record with the first 22 individuals listed as unknown. While the graves apparently were marked with wooden headboards (Gnirk 1981:46; Kenyon 1950:85), these burned during a prairie fire. Their replacements have also long since disappeared. Stone headmarkers at the cemetery have been misplaced, vandalized and stolen. A number of interments have been accomplished since Fort Randall was officially closed by the Government in 1892. No documentation has yet been recovered to provide identity for these graves.

Removal [disinterment] of the military personnel and their dependants to Fort Leavenworth appears to have been undertaken in a fashion typical of the time, through Government contract with a civilian. Exhumation of 67 bodies in 68 boxes are recorded. Excavation of one grave (Plates 3 and 4) during the current investigation (number 2) was accomplished to answer a series of questions including: 1) the nature of the subsurface soil structure, relative to depth of grave unit; 2) material and type of casket construction; and 3) accuracy of existing documentation vis-a-vis presence or absence of grave contents. Grave locality number 2 (official grave registration plan) was specifically selected since none of the 22 unknown graves were contracted for disinterment for relocation to Fort Leavenworth. Grave number 2 is the single interment indicated to be remaining in an otherwise continuous series of disinterments (refer to Figure 2). Upon excavation we gained confirmation that in fact the interment in grave number 2 had been removed. The only remaining evidence consisted of several badly fragmented and decomposed pieces of the lid and side boards and bottom of the casket, two nails (square-headed, shank rectangular in cross-section) and a single carpal (right lunate) bone of an adult hand. While the existing record is lacking on the circumstance at the time the Fort Randall exhumations were in progress, grave number 2 presents a strong line of evidence that removals were accomplished without the greatest attention to accuracy. It is quite possible that the individual accomplishing the exhumations did not possess the graves registration data for the cemetery and removed individuals to satisfy a count or quota.

Based on discrepancies in documents and on the direct archeological evidence (including the current research), it appears that exhumations for cemetery relocations were often less than meticulously correct. More recent relocations of cemeteries threatened by inundation due to the dam construction on the Missouri River (see Nowak and Berg 1983) serve to further illustrate the problems. Grave relocation registries on file with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers illustrate the difficulties of accurately locating graves, even with extensive investigations. Practices seem to have varied widely including such scenarios as taking a yard of earth if the grave could not be relocated, removing the major bones, and leaving some bones behind with considerable mixing of grave contents.

In general terms nineteenth century funerary practices, death and demography are not well understood for the frontier region. The specific work of Mary Williams (1984), which brings together evidence from numerous documents, needs to be replicated at forts and posts throughout the frontier region. The scope of research provided for under the current study has not produced any significant references beyond Williams (1984) that clarify this topic in more than general terms. In the journal of Philippe Regis de Trobriand, for instance, he recalls the burial of two men who died of scurvy at Fort Stevenson in 1868, Dakota Territory. "Our two men were buried this morning side by side on the prairie with military honors" (Kane 1951:263). No mention is made of a cemetery. Similarly when Col. Powell died after falling from his horse he "was buried...with full military honors on the prairie where he had gaily gone out on horseback six days ago and from where they brought him back on a stretcher, dying" (Kane 1951:300).

Trobriand's diaries also give accounts of what must have been a common practice, of disinterment of bodies by family members to be taken "home." On July 26, the body of Col. Powell (who died on June 11) which his brother came to claim, "was disinterred to be put in a metal coffin, hermetically sealed" (Kane 1951:317). Lieutenant Walborn, who died a victim of whiskey at twenty-three years of age in November, was buried in a temporary grave. His widow intended to take the body with her "when the first steamboat coming back from Fort Benton affords her means of transport. In any case this will not be before the month of June" (Kane 1951:350).

Data on Physical Layout at Fort Randall

From documentation currently available, several aspects of the physical circumstance surrounding the Fort Randall Post Cemetery are cogent to the present study. In a 1950 M.A. thesis, Kenyon refers to sources that indicate:

A post cemetery was laid out on a hill nearly a mile behind the fort. A picket fence 900 feet long was erected around the cemetery, the ground was improved by planting trees and making walks, and 87 new lettered headboards were placed over the graves (Kenyon 1950:85).

Michael Kirwin reported that the cemetery was established or improved in 1877 (Kirwin 1985, Appendix II (b)). Writing in 1950, Kenyon reported that:

In the post cemetery...a few slabs still remain, surrounded by wornout iron posts with the chain missing. These slabs bear the inscriptions: Lt. J. A. Breckenridge of Co. E, 33rd Ia. Vol. Inf.; Private Hugo Stabe of Co. D., 15th U.S. Inf.; and Oliver Pratt. The latter was the son of the post sutler (Kenyon 1950:119).

Gnirk records that:

The Fort Randall Post Cemetery in Dakota Territory was platted in 1877 in the southwest corner of the SE $\frac{1}{4}$ of section 18 (later Elf Bjornsen claim). The old Fort cemetery was located nearby. A prairie fire had swept over the land, the head boards were scorched and burned until identification of the names was impossible...new letter headboards were placed over the graves (Gnirk 1981:46).

Mattes records that "certain additional improvements were made at the post by the 1st Infantry during the later seventies, including... restoration of the post cemetery" (Mattes 1952:93). Mattes also records that in 1952 "on a near-by hillside is the pitiful remnant of the old cemetery, containing a few toppled headstones" (Mattes 1952:89).

In a report submitted to the Corps of Engineers in 1948, Mattes (1949:486-487) notes that the abandoned Fort Randall cemetery was not

enclosed, but clearly defined by dense grass growth and the few scattered and broken markers and tombstones which survived. Eight graves were identifiable at that time - Augustin Rieder, Elizabeth A. Carroll, Jacob Herman, J. A. Breckenridge, Oliver Shannon Pratt, Sarah M. Cook, and Pvt Hugh Stabe. (While Mattes refers to eight graves, he only lists seven. The eighth is likely William Smith.)

It is possible that a sketch of Fort Randall (Figure 7) at the Nebraska State Historical Society shows the cemetery in 1858 (see Schubert 1981:xxvi and Gnirk 1981:32) [note: no scale was provided with the sketch]. This assumes the location of the fort is the same as that where the ruins are today and not upstream at Handy's Point, as suggested by Mattes (1949:482). Evidence for this comes from the work of Garth (1951:3-4) whose investigations on this matter forced him "to the conclusion that Fort Randall I had occupied much the same area as the later fort" (Garth 1951:4). Further investigation of this topic is in progress (Lueck personal communication 1985).

Examination of the Adjutant General's Post Returns Records for the years 1877-1879 yielded no information concerning the formal cemetery layout.

Data on Deaths at Fort Randall

Michael Kirwin copied references to persons killed at Fort Randall as follows:

Sgt Trask of 41st Iowa Inf, killed by Indians on Choteau Creek in Sept 1863. [Grave #36 - Sept 3, 1863]

Private Folck of C. A, 6th Iowa Cav, killed by Indians 2 miles from Ft. Randall, March 1864. [Grave #41, buried March 14, 1864]

Major Dryer died of cholera at the fort, January 1867.

Sgt. McKinney murdered in fight with another trooper while repairing telegraph line north of fort, July/August 1872. [Grave #73, buried Oct 19, 1872]

Cattle herder killed by Indians July 1868.

Wagoner man killed by Indians March 1869 (see Appendix II (b)).

Don Gasper supplied the following account (see Appendix II (f)):

My mother, Mrs. Anton Musilek had a brother, Frank Burgr. He froze his feet somewhere east of Ft.



Fort Randall. Nebraska State Historical Society.

Figure 7. Copy of sketch of Fort Randall in 1858 (Schubert 1981:xxvi)
with arrow indicating possible location of the cemetery.

Randall in the blizzard of 1888. He was found by an Indian family by the name of Shields. They notified the post surgeon at Ft. Randall that he was at their home and in bad shape, so a group of soldiers crossed the river on the ice and went to get him. The post surgeon had to amputate both legs; there at the Ft. some months later he passed away. He was buried at the Ft. Randall cemetery. All he ever had was a wooden marker (by Julia Bouza, age 85, Frank Burgr's niece).

Frank Burgr is not on the burial register.

An assessment of the Records of the Office of the Adjutant General, Fort Randall, D.T. Post Returns 1856-1892 (National Archives, Washington:1949 - on War Department microfilm [128 feet, WR-49-396] at the U.S.D. Library, Vermillion, S.D.) was made to ascertain the research potential of this data base.

These monthly Post Returns provide basic data on regiments/persons at the post, official communications received, a brief record of "events" and "general remarks." With regard to death and demography on the frontier, the records provide a list of the number of persons who died since the previous month, divided into death in action and death by disease and other natural causes. Commissioned officers and enlisted men are treated separately. In some instances the name(s) of the person(s) who died are also provided.

Within the limited parameters of the present literature search, the records of the Office of the Adjutant General for deceased at the post were cross-checked for the years 1856-1858 against the Official Graves Registration document (Appendix I) which lists "date of death." Although this evaluation was superficial, it allowed identification of certain discrepancies contained in the "official" records. The Official Graves Registration document (Appendix I) records the first 22 entries as "UNKNOWN," with no date of death. Entries number 23 to 31 record individuals deceased for the 1856-1858 timeframe. Hence, we have the names and date of death for eight (8) individuals. The records of the Office of the Adjutant General on the other hand list twelve (12) persons as deceased for the same timeframe (1856-1858). This confusion is exacerbated by the entry on the Official Graves Registration document (Appendix I) of Grave # 28 (John Wood), whose date of death is recorded

as December 10, 1857. The record of the Adjutant General lists no deaths for the same timeframe in December 1857.

Burials apparently continued in the cemetery after the Fort was abandoned in 1892, but the area soon fell into neglect. When the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers took over the land it was unfenced and grazed by cattle. Headstones had been removed, were fallen, broken and misplaced. At the period of Homesteading in the late 1890s, section lines were surveyed on cardinal directions, resulting in cutting across a portion of the south end of the cemetery and removing this portion for agricultural use. At this time (late 1890s) the cemetery must have been overgrown and the burial area unclear. When the present day fence line was established is unclear, but it does follow the lines of the original fence closely, with the exception of the southern quadrant which was realigned following the section line. The flagpole and wooden cross are recent additions (Plate 11) and the 16 burials on the west side (W1-W16) are also clearly more recent than the other burials in the cemetery (Plate 12), although their actual status is unknown. It would also appear that some of the undocumented (presumably later) burials have been disturbed (Plate 11) and possibly exhumed.

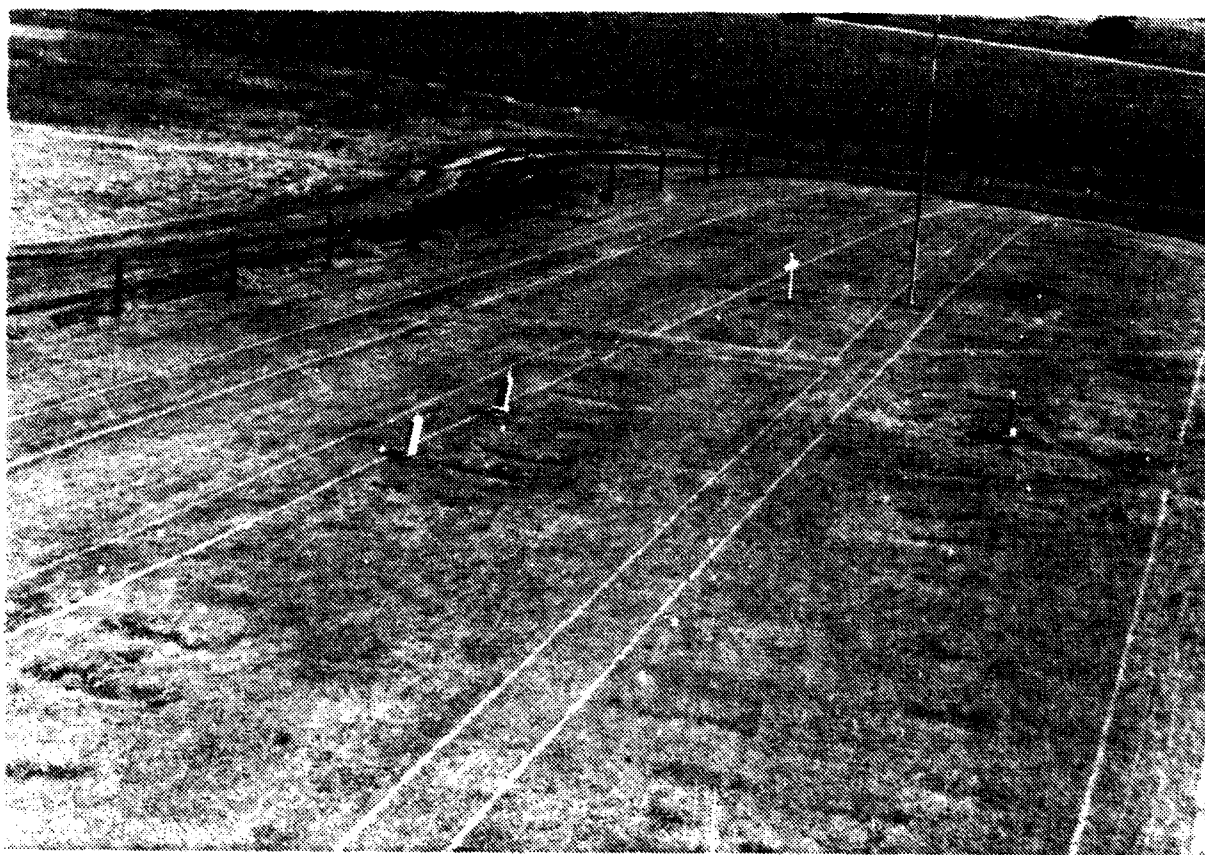


Plate 11. Detail of west side of cemetery with undocumented grave depressions in bottom left.



Plate 12. Detail of the 16 undocumented graves marked by cement blocks
on the west side of the cemetery.

SUMMARY OF RESULTS

The post headquarters records of Fort Randall, located at the Navy and Old Army Branch, Military Archives Division of the National Archives, included a register of burials in the post cemetery listing 138 interments, of which numbers 1 through 22 are shown as unknown (see Appendix I). The numbers on this list match the numbers on the two grave registration plans. One plan, dated 1879, shows 92 graves and lists the persons in those graves, of which 22 are unknown. The undated plan shows 134 graves (but has no burial list on the plan). This plan probably dates to 1891 since the person in grave #134 died on August 21, 1891 and grave #135 dates to November 1891.

In addition, a separate list of persons who were exhumed from the Fort Randall cemetery and reinterred at Fort Leavenworth exists (Table 1). A list also exists of those individuals not exhumed (Table 2), which was supplied by Earl W. Zieg, Chief, Operations Section of the Cemetery Branch, Memorial Division (see Appendix II (a)).

All those removed are shown on the plans except for a Frederick Renfeldt. However, there is an E. Benfeldt listed as not being exhumed and this is likely the same person (see Tables 1 and 2, grave #48).

All those graves which are listed as not having been exhumed are shown on the two plans. However, the locations of two graves, #107 and #113, while listed in the register, are not shown on the schematic plan.

In addition to those listed in Tables 1 and 2, the following are also listed in the burial record (Appendix I) - #97, 124, 125, 126, 127, 132-138. Michael Kirwin also reports the grave of Lee Rieder (died 1885-1890) located ca. 50 feet east of that of Susan Rieder (Grave #137) whose tombstone was stolen in the 1960s.

The following tombstones are still present in the cemetery:

	LOCATED BY GRAVE #	SHOULD BE GRAVE #
Susana, wife of G Rieder	134	137
Died Feb 27, 1892	SINGLE STONE	
Augustin, Infant Child of G and Susana Rieder. Died Aug 3, 1881	134	134
Elizabeth A. Carroll	135	135
Jacob Herman	128	128
J.A. Breckenridge (Plate 8)	123	123
Lena, wife of J.F. Moran Died August 29, 1897 (?)	-	NOT LISTED
William, son of John and Bridget Smith Died Sept 1, 1878 (Plate 9)	-	88
Sarah M., wife of J.M. Cook	131	131
Geanie (Footstone to Virginia Jane Pratt)	124	124
---NNON(Footstone to Oliver Shannon Pratt)	-	127
Virginia Jane Pratt, dau of D.L. and G.S. Pratt. Died Nov 11, 1887	127 SINGLE STONE	124
Oliver Shannon Pratt, son of D.L. and G.S. Pratt. Died Dec 27, 1887	127	127
Unmarked fragments	5	

In conclusion, there are 116 named and 22 unknown individuals listed on the burial register (Appendix I). In addition, Lee Rieder and Frank Burgr are known to have been buried in the cemetery, and the head and footstones of Lena, wife of J. F. Moran, are present in the cemetery (Plate 13). Thus, 141 persons are documented as being buried in the cemetery.

Add to the above the 16 smaller graves on the west side of the cemetery marked W1 through W16 with cement stones inscribed "UNKNOWN" three times. The three inscriptions indicate lack of name; lack of date of birth; and lack of date of death of the interred (Plate 10).

The updated plan of the cemetery based on our fieldwork (Figure 5) indicates nine undocumented depressions. These may or may not include graves #107 and #113 and the graves of Lee Rieder and Frank Burgr. One undocumented depression, immediately south of grave #30, was very slight. A single core showed undisturbed soil indicating this depression was not a grave. The southernmost of two deeper depressions, immediately east of grave #133, was cored and wood was brought up from a depth of 55 inches below the ground surface. An angled depression just south of this produced wood fragments and a subadult clavicle bone fragment also from 55 inches below the surface. The northernmost of the two deeper depressions was also cored to a depth of 63 inches, producing wet, loose, mottled (disturbed) soil.

Grave numbers 12, 13 and 119, which were judgementally plotted from the plans as being located in the cultivated field, were cored and produced wood fragments confirming their status as graves. Grave number 130 was cored to 66 inches below the surface, producing dry, loose mottled (disturbed) soil but no wood fragments. All wood fragments recovered are from planking (formed lumber) and appear to be red elm.

The only artifacts retained from this investigation were from the excavated grave #2 (samples of the wood planks, two nails and a carpal bone) and cored grave "Unknown W11" (wood sample). These artifacts are curated at the South Dakota Archaeological Research center (Accession Number 85-0227).

Based on the presence of apparent grave depressions that cannot be assigned to any documented burials, at least five additional burials are present in the cemetery in addition to the 157 outlined above, producing a total of 162 grave positions.

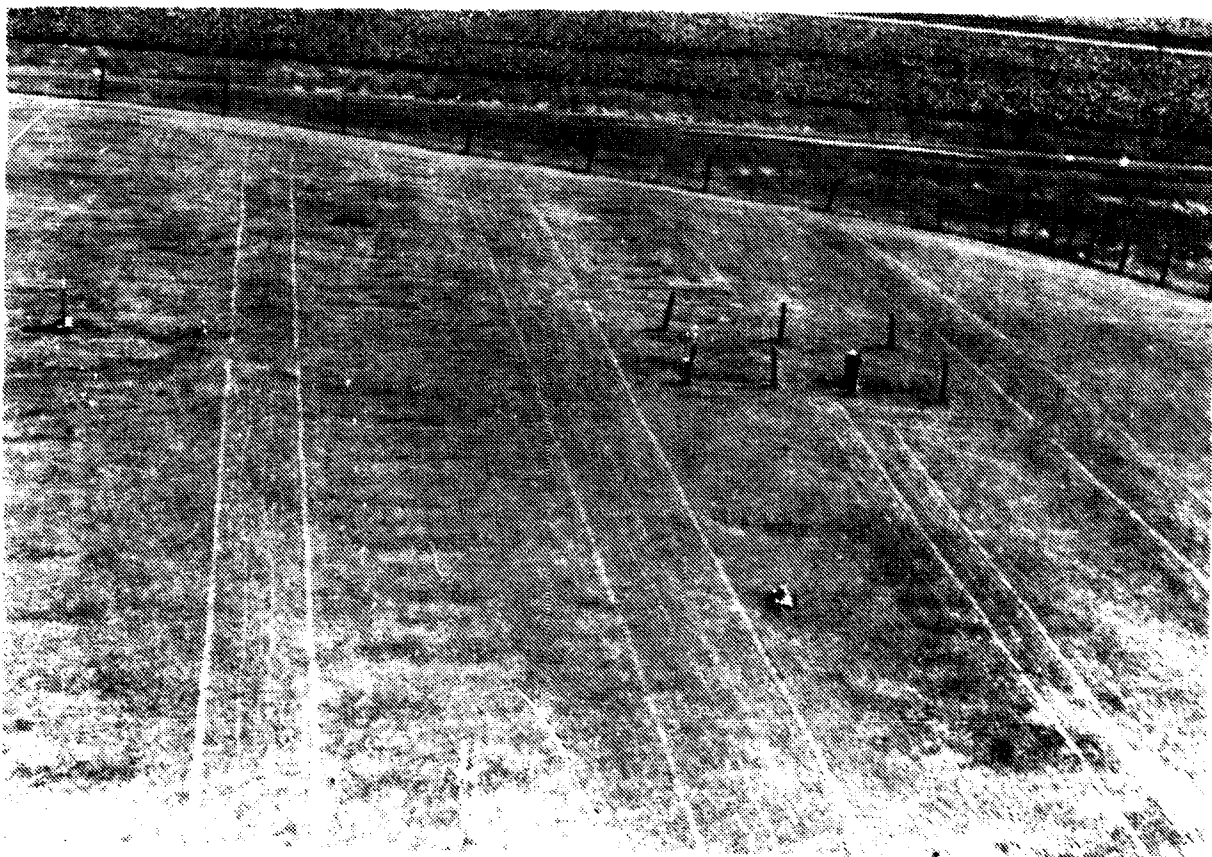


Plate 13. Detail of grave depressions, showing graves surrounded by metal posts, and grave of "Lena" marked by head and foot stones, on left.

TABLE 1: Names of Military Personnel and Descendants Removed from Abandoned Post Cemetery at Fort Randall, Dakota Territory, and Reinterred in Fort Leavenworth National Cemetery in June 1893. Remains Transferred in 68 Boxes (see Appendix II (a)). (Amended to include grave numbers from plans and spellings from burial register, other entries the same).

Grave #	Name	Rank	Date of Death
23.	Rourke, Thos. [Register lists as Rouk, with a correction above as Rourke]	Pvt. 2d U.S. Inf.	Aug. 25, 1856
24.	Smith, John	Pvt. Co. D, 2d Dragoons	Oct. 3, 1856
25.	Montgomery, Francis	Recruit, Co. E, 2d U.S. Inf.	Oct. 18, 1856
26.	Price, Edward L.	Sgt. Co. K, 2d Dragoons	Dec. 10, 1856
27.	Wright, Edw. Th. E.	1st Lieut. Co. D, 2d U.S. Inf.	Oct. 12, 1857
28.	Wood, John	Pvt. Co. D, 2d U.S. Dragoons	Dec. 10, 1857
29.	Morris, Joseph	Pvt. Co. H, 2d U.S. Inf.	Jan. 22, 1858
30.	Keller, Charles	Recruit, 2d U.S. Inf.	Aug. 8, 1858
31.	Trine, James. P.	Pvt. Co. G, 2d U.S. Inf.	June 24, 1859
32.	Harting Daniel	Pvt. Co. M, 4th U.S. Art.	Aug. 1, 1859
33.	Cummings, James	Pvt. Co. A, Dak. Vols.	Apr. 8, 1863
34.	Kleinmessling, Gerhart	Pvt. Co. A, 6th Iowa Cav.	June 15, 1863
35.	Randall, Samuel	Capt. Co. I, 6th Iowa Cav.	July 22, 1863
36.	Trask, Eugene	Pvt. Co. B, 41st Iowa Vols.	Sept. 3, 1863
37.	Harrison, John M.	Pvt. Co. E, 6th Iowa Cav.	Oct. 31, 1863
38.	Brown, Joseph	Sgt. Co. D, 6th Iowa Cav.	Mar. 14, 1863
39.	Woodward, J. H.	Sgt. Co. G, 6th Iowa Cav.	Feb. 4, 1864
40.	Blackman, Austin	Pvt. Co. G, 41st Iowa Vols.	Feb. 23, 1864
41.	Folck, John	Pvt. Co. A, 6th Iowa Cav.	Mar. 14, 1864
42.	Apple, Charles	Pvt. Co. G, 6th Iowa Cav.	Mar. 24, 1864
43.	Castello, Peter	Pvt. Co. A, 6th Iowa Cav.	Apr. 23, 1864
44.	Clarasay, Edward	Pvt. Co. M, 6th Iowa Cav.	May 29, 1865
45.	Arnold, William	Pvt. Co. K, 6th Iowa Cav.	July 10, 1864
47.	Green, David D.	Pvt. Co. D, 6th Iowa Cav.	Sept. 13, 1864
48.	Renfeldt, Frederick [Register has E. Renfeldt with an F inserted later above the E]	Pvt. Co. A, 6th Iowa Cav.	Oct. 24, 1864
49.	Langenhausen, H. [Register has Langenhausen partly crossed out and ?lckhardt inserted]	Pvt. Co. H, 6th Iowa Cav.	Oct. 28, 1864
50.	Sargent, Geo P.	Pvt. Co. D, 6th Iowa Cav.	Feb. 27, 1865
51.	Corbin, J. N.	Pvt. Co. F, 6th Iowa Cav.	July 21, 1865
52.	Holmes, Samuel	Pvt. Co. M, 14th Iowa Vols.	Aug. 11, 1865
53.	Putnam, Theodore	Pvt. Co. D, 50th Wisc. Vols.	Sept. 16, 1865
54.	Gardner, Henry	Pvt. Co. F, 6th Iowa Cav.	Sept. 22, 1865
55.	Gunderson, Miles	Pvt. Co. F, 6th Iowa Cav.	Sept. 22, 1865
56.	Erickson, Peter	Pvt. Co. H, 6th Iowa Cav.	Jan. 8, 1866
57.	Pecker, Perry J.	Pvt. Co. B, 6th Iowa Cav.	Nov. 5, 1866
58.	Doyle, John	Pvt. Co. H, 6th Iowa Cav.	Apr. 3, 1867
60.	Miller, John	Pvt. Co. F, 22d U.S. Inf.	July 11, 1867
62.	Hamilton, Joseph	Major	Aug. 23, 1867
63.	Gibson, Robt. A.	Lieut. Co. F, 22d U.S. Inf.	Sept. 23, 1867
64.	Pratt, Elias A.	Pvt. Co. F, 22d U.S. Inf.	Mar. 16, 1869
65.	Thompson, John	Pvt. Co. C, 22d U.S. Inf.	Jan. 16, 1870
66.	Burke, William	Pvt. Co. E, 22d U.S. Inf.	June 16, 1870
67.	Windover, Anson	Pvt. Co. C, 22d U.S. Inf.	July 8, 1870

Grave #	Name	Rank	Date of Death
70.	Gray, James B.	Sgt. Co. G, 22d U.S. Inf.	Apr. 4, 1871
71.	Nugent, Lawrence	Pvt. Co. C, 22d U.S. Inf.	July 28, 1871
72.	Ott, Paul	Pvt. Co. K, 22d U.S. Inf.	Oct. 1, 1872
73.	Kinney, Peter A.	Sgt. Co. B, 22d U.S. Inf.	Oct. 19, 1872
75.	Keogh, Wm. A.	Pvt. Co. B, 22d U.S. Inf.	Feb. 25, 1874
77.	Bezant, John H.	Pvt. Co. C, 1st U.S. Inf.	Aug. 20, 1874
78.	Wright, George	Pvt. Co. I, 1st U.S. Inf.	Feb. 4, 1875
80.	Logan, Warden F.	Sgt. Co. G, 1st U.S. Inf.	Dec. 11, 1875
81.	Gaynes, William	Pvt. Co. D, 1st U.S. Inf.	Mar. 10, 1876
82.	Cooper, William H.	Pvt. Co. G, 1st U.S. Inf.	June 19, 1876
83.	Liebrecht, Elizabeth	Wife of Com. Sgt.	July 5, 1876
84.	Heiner, H. B. E.	Daughter, Lieut. Haines	Sept. 5, 1876
86.	Allen, Robert	Pvt. Co. D, 22d U.S. Inf.	Dec. 7, 1870
92.	Harris, Washington	Pvt. Co. E, 1st U.S. Inf.	Jan. 7, 1879
94.	McManus, Edw. F., child		July 7, 1880
100.	Child of Joseph Clark		Feb. 20, 1881
103.	O'Donavan, Thomas	Ordnc. Sgt. U.S.A.	Aug. 26, 1881
104.	Brady, Wm.	Band	Oct. 6, 1881
106.	Curtis, Frank A.	Pvt. Co. G, U.S.A.	May 1, 1882
111.	Terr(a)r Jackson	Pvt. Band, 25th U.S. Inf.	Nov. 2, 1882
114.	Reams, John	QM. Sgt., 15th U.S. Inf.	May 24, 1885
115.	Jepson, Wm. L.	Pvt. Co. A, 15th U.S. Inf.	May 11, 1884
120.	Greening, Herman A.	Pvt. Co. D, 15th U.S. Inf.	Mar. 9, 1886
122.	Tharett, Charles	Pvt. Co. A, 15th U.S. Inf.	Sept. 7, 1886
129.	Mitchell, Elizabeth	Child of D. M. Mitchell, 1st Lieut. 15 U.S. Inf.	Feb. 3, 1888

TABLE 2: Fort Randall Post Cemetery--Dakota Territory
Burial Registers--Posts, Camps and Stations Vol. II.
Listing on pages 129-130 for Fort Randall.
Persons Not Removed (see Appendix II (a)):

a. 22--Unknowns

b. Known interments--remains not removed (Amended to show grave # from plans and spelling as on burial register, other entries the same).

Grave #	Name	Date of death
46.	Dezaire, Ashtia--Colored citizen	Not shown
48.	Benfeldt, F. Pvt. Co. A 6th U.S. Inf. (see listing on Table 1 - F. Renfeldt)	Died Oct. 24, 1864
59.	Dezaire, George	Died Jun. 26, 1867
61.	Dezaire, Sophia	Died Jun. 18, 1872
68.	Denning, Emily Child	Died Aug. 23, 1870
69.	Paulin, Joseph Citizen	Died Jun. 28, 1871
74.	Mexican (found dead on prairie) Musician	Died Dec. 24, 1873
76.	Granger, Geo. E. Child	Died Jul. 9, 1874
79.	Dezaire, David Indian interpreter	Died May 8, 1875
85.	Dezaire, Sophie Child	Died Dec. 22, 1876
87.	Liddy, Bridget Child	Died Aug. 2, 1878
88.	Smith, William J. Child	Died Sep. 1, 1878
89.	Jaudel, Gertrude Child	Died Aug. 25, 1878
90.	Elias, Annie Child	Died Aug. 15, 1878
91.	O'Shea, Mrs. M.J.	Died Jan. 9, 1872
93.	Satterfield, Herman Citizen	Died Nov. 29, 1879
95.	Lynch, Peter Child	Died Jul. 7, 1880
96.	Garnier, Nellie Child	Died Jul. 22, 1880
98.	St. Clair, Josephine Child of Lt St. Clair	Died Aug. 1, 1880
99.	Scroggs, David Citizen [Register not clear - Scruggs/Scoggs/Scuggs?]	Died Aug. 13, 1880
101.	Child of Gustave Rieder	Died Aug. 1, 1881
102.	McLaughlin, Mrs. Mary	Died Aug. 23, 1881
105.	De Rockbrin, Andreas Indian interpreter	Died Oct. 26, 1881
107.	Marklin, James Citizen	Died Jun. 14, 1882
108.	St. Clair, Frank Citizen	Died Jul. 6, 1882
109.	Howard, Ellen Nora Child	Died Jun. 28, 1882
110.	Tebadeau, Peter Citizen	Died Oct. 24, 1882
112.	Anderson, Rosetta Child [Register unclear - T(e or c)(b, h or l)adeaux]	Died Nov. 2, 1882
113.	Hooker, A. E. Capt. 9th U.S. Inf. (should be 9th Cavalry - see Burial Register)	Died Jan. 20, 1883
116.	Fitzpatrick, Anthony Citizen	Died Jul. 31, 1884
117.	Child of John London	Died Aug. 7, 1884
118.	Campbell, L. M. Citizen [Register appears to list as S. M. but probably S is an L - written in same hand as grave #119]	Died Feb. 10, 1885
119.	Larsen, Rider Citizen [Register appears to list as Sarsen - but probably S is an L]	Died Jul. 31, 1885

Grave #	Name	Date of death
121.	Selber, Louis J. Child	Died Jan. 21, 1886
123.	Breckenridge, John A. 2nd Lt. 33 Iowa Vols.	Died Dec. 25, 1886
128.	Herman, Jacob Citizen	Died Dec. 19, 1888
130.	Stabe, Hugo Pvt. Co. D 15th U.S. Inf.	Died Jul. 10, 1889
131.	Cook, Sarah M. (wife of J. M. Cook civilian QM employee)	Died Jan. 8, 1890

Names not on Tables 1 and 2:

97.	Willie Harris	Child	
124.	Jeannie Pratt	Infant child of Daniel L. Pratt, Jr.	Died Nov 11, 1887
125.	Charles A. Brooks Jr.	Infant child of Sergt Charles A. Brooks Co "A" 15th Inf	Died Dec 12, 1887
126.	Hall	Stillborn child of Robert Hall, Telegraph operator at Yankton Indian reservation	Died Dec 14, 1887
127.	Shannon Pratt	Infant Boy of Daniel L. Pratt, Jr.	Died Dec 27, 1887
132.	Josephine Mital	Infant child of Frank Mital, civilian.	Died Mch 28, 1891
133.	Mary Holecek	Wife of Anton Holecek, civilian	Died Apl 20, 1891
134.	Augustine Rieder	Infant child of Gustave Rieder	Died Aug 21, 1891
135.	Elizabeth Carroll	Sister in law of Gustave Rieder	Died Nov 18, 1891
136.	Elizabeth Griffin	Infant child of John F. Griffin	Died Jan 10, 1892
137.	Susan Rieder	Wife of Gustave Rieder	Died Feb 27, 1892
138.	John Grey Horse	Pct. Co L. 21st Infty	Died Oct 9, 1892

Note: Beginning with grave #115 the date of death and the date of burial are recorded on the register. The longest gap between the two is for grave #120, died March 9th, buried April 6th.

The records indicate that in 1877, 87 new lettered headboards were placed over the graves, the original headboards having been destroyed in a prairie fire. The official Quartermaster's burial register lists 87 interments prior to 1877 (numbers 1-86 and 91), including numbers 1 through 22 listed as unknown. It is probable that the reason for the unknown graves is that some of the headboards were destroyed in the prairie fire, thus precluding accurate identification.

This line of evidence provides a strong argument that the burial register would have been compiled after 1877. Indeed, the entries from number 1 through number 108 (dated 1882) are all in the same hand and written as though they had been transcribed at the same time. After number 108 the entries are in several different hands.

Although Gnirk recorded that at the time the cemetery was platted "the old Fort cemetery was located nearby," the burials predating 1877 occur in all seven rows of burials present today. This indicates that the 1877 plan was platted on the site of the original burial area. Additionally, if the 1858 sketch of Fort Randall (Figure 7) shown in Schubert (1981:xxvi) does show the cemetery at that time, it appears to have been formally enclosed. Whether there were pathways established in 1858 or whether pathways were first incorporated during the "laying out" of the cemetery in 1877 is unclear. It is likely that there were some walkways at the old cemetery which were upgraded in 1877.

As indicated previously, inconsistencies exist regarding the spelling of certain names of persons buried in the cemetery, with no guarantee that even the official Quartermaster's burial register contains the correct spelling. This condition is exacerbated by the fact that names were written in longhand with quill pen points frequently leaving open to interpretation what letter(s) are represented. Nevertheless, the official Quartermaster record is the best available and the one on which the names in this report (Tables 1 and 2) are based.

Disposition of the burials in the cemetery suggests some groupings by regiment (see Appendix III). Those in the 6th Iowa Cavalry are buried mainly in the north central part of the cemetery, for instance, but generally, the military burials show no clearly defined groupings. Family members are buried together in the case of the Dezaires (graves

46, 59, 61, 79, 85), Harrises (graves 92, 97), Rieders (graves 134, 135, 137) and Pratts (graves 124, 127). Additionally, the civilian graves group in the southwest section of the cemetery; the middle east area (including five of the six graves surrounded by metal posts today (Plate 13); and the extreme southeast area.

A general evaluation of the importance of the research potential of the Adjutant General Post Returns records would suggest the need for a very comprehensive examination of these documents. Clearly, achieving compatibility between the various records will require a much more comprehensive level of literature research and will involve additional sources such as the Post Surgeon General's records.

The inconsistent quality of the handwritten Post Returns records, coupled with the additional distortions due to the microfilm process strengthens the argument for examination of the original archival copies of these and other records which may exist in the National Archives.

Based on information derived from the literature search, expanded research might best be directed towards the following:

1. Attempting to locate additional photographs/sketches of the cemetery.
2. Getting the pension files on the nineteenth century servicemen buried at Fort Randall.
3. Visiting in person the National Military Archives in Washington.
4. Visiting in person the Western History Department, Denver Public Library, Denver, Colorado.
5. Visiting further with Michael Kirwin and Adeline Gnirk to go over their records in detail.
6. Checking with the American Legion concerning the 16 unknown graves marked with cement blocks.
7. Locating the Post Surgeon's records.
8. Locating records of the Post Quartermaster.
9. Locating records of the typical wooden headboards used in these cemeteries so they can be reconstructed.
10. Attempting to track down any stone grave markers that have been removed, e.g. by newspaper requests, etc.
11. Researching more extensively accounts of burial removal practices.

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- 1984 Care of the Dead at 19th Century Posts. Periodical - Journal of the Council on America's Military Past, vol XIII, Number 1 (50):14-30.

APPENDICES

- I. Copy of burial register from Post Headquarters records.
- II. Pertinent correspondence:
 - a) Earl W. Zieg, Cemetery Branch, Memorial Division, Feb 1972
 - b) Michael Kirwin, July 1985
 - c) Adeline Gnirk, June 1985
 - d) Almon Adam, June 1985
 - e) Frank Gehlsen, June 1985
 - f) Don Gasper, July 1985
 - g) Janice E. McKenney, Dept. of the Army, Center of Military History, June 1985
 - h) Robert H. Gruber, Navy and Old Army Branch, Military Archives Division, July 1985
 - i) George C. Chalou, Modern Military Field Branch, Military Archives Division, July 1985
 - j) Maida H. Loescher, Military Service Branch, Military Archives Division, July 1985
- III. Disposition of graves in the cemetery.
 - a) Unknowns (1-22).
 - b) Pre-1877 graves (excluding unknowns).
 - c) 6th Iowa Cavalry burials
 - d) 22nd U.S. Infantry burials
 - e) 2nd U.S. Infantry burials
 - f) 15th U.S. Infantry burials
 - g) 1st U.S. Infantry burials
 - h) Civilian burials
- IV. Copies of letters sent to informants, May 1985.

APPENDIX I: Burial Register

RECORD BOOK of

1

Burial No.	NAME.	RANK.	CO.	SEGMENT		DATE OF DEATH		GRAVE MARK		REMARKS				
				NUMBER	STATE	ARM	MONTH	DAY	YEAR	SECTION	NUMBER	ORIGINAL PLACE OF BURIAL		No. OF DISINTERMENT
												Locality	State	
1	Unknown													
2	Unknown													
3	Unknown													
4	Unknown													
5	Unknown													
6	Unknown													
7	Unknown													
8	Unknown													
9	Unknown													
10	Unknown													
11	Unknown													
12	Unknown													
13	Unknown													
14	Unknown													
15	Unknown													
16	Unknown													
17	Unknown													
18	Unknown													
19	Unknown													
20	Unknown													
21	Unknown													
22	Unknown													
23	Fred Smith	Pvt	Unassigned				Aug	25	1856		22	✓	✓	
24	John Smith	Unknown	E. Regt.				Oct	2	1856		24	✓	✓	
25	Francis Montgomery	Recruit	E. S. Regt.				Oct	18	1856		25	✓	✓	
26	Edward Price	Cpt	E. Regt.				Dec	10	1856		26	✓	✓	
27	John W. Wright	1st Lieut	E. Regt.				Oct	12	1857		27	✓	✓	
28	John Wood	Pvt	E. Regt.				Dec	10	1857		28	✓	✓	
29	Joseph Morris	Pvt	E. Regt.				Jan	22	1858		29	✓	✓	
30	Charles Miller	Recruit	Unassigned				Aug	8	1858		30	✓	✓	
31	James P. Faine	Pvt	E. S. Regt.				June	24	1859		31	✓	✓	
32	Daniel D. Harting	Pvt	4th Regt.				Aug	1	1859		32	✓	✓	
33	James Cummings	Pvt	2nd Regt.				Aug	8	1860		33	✓	✓	

Post Cemetery, at *Fort Randall, S. D.*

Gravestone No.	NAME	RANK	CO.	REGIMENT. DATE OF DEATH. GRAVE MARK							REMARKS		
				NUMBER	GRADE	ARM.	MONTH	DAY	YEAR	SECTION	NUMBER	ORIGINAL PLACE OF BURIAL	
												Locality	State
													See top of page 100
34	George M. Hines	Private	A	6	Infantry		June	18	1863		34	✓	✓
35	Samuel Randall	Corp	D	6	"		July	22	1863		35	✓	✓
36	Eugene Fossil	Private	B	41	"		Sept	3	1863		36	✓	✓
37	John W. Harrison	Private	E	6	"		Oct	21	1863		37	✓	✓
38	Joseph Brown	Capt	D	6	"		Nov	14	1863		38	✓	✓
39	J. H. Woodward	1st Lt	G	6	"		Feb	4	1864		39	✓	✓
40	Orestes Blackman	Private	G	6	"		Feb	22	1864		40	✓	✓
41	John Folsch	Private	A	6	"		Mar	14	1864		41	✓	✓
42	Charles Apple	Private	G	6	"		Mar	24	1864		42	✓	✓
43	Peter Castella	Private	A	6	"		April	22	1864		43	✓	✓
44	Edward Claryway	Private	M	6	"		May	29	1864		44	✓	✓
45	William Arnold	Private	K	6	"		July	10	1864		45	✓	✓
46	Abel Dezaire	Colonel									46		
47	David D. Gross	Private	D	6	Infantry		Sept	13	1864		47	✓	✓
48	E. Renshaw	Private	A	6	"		Oct	24	1864		48	✓	✓
49	H. Langenhoven	Private	H	6	"		Oct	28	1864		49	✓	✓
50	Geo. P. Gagnant	Private	D	6	"		Feb	27	1865		50	✓	✓
51	John W. Corbin	Private	F	6	"		July	21	1865		51	✓	✓
52	Samuel Holmes	Private	M	14	"		Aug	11	1865		52	✓	✓
53	Frederic Putnam	Private	D	6	Infantry		Sept	16	1865		53	✓	✓
54	Henry Gardner	Private	F	6	Infantry		Sept	22	1865		54	✓	✓
55	Wm. Gundersen	Private	K	6	"		Oct	8	1865		55	✓	✓
56	Peter Erickson	Private	H	6	"		Jan	8	1866		56	✓	✓
57	Peroy J. Peller	Private	B	6	"		Nov	5	1866		57	✓	✓
58	John Doyle	Private	H	6	"		Apr	3	1867		58	✓	✓
59	George Dezaire						June	26	1867		59		
60	John Miller	Private	F	22	U.S. Inf		July	11	1867		60	✓	✓
61	Frank Dezaire						June	18	1872		61		
62	Joseph Hamilton	May					Aug	23	1867		62	✓	✓
63	Robert O. Gilson	Private	F	22	U.S. Inf		Sept	23	1867		63	✓	✓
64	Charles O. Hall	Private	F	22	"		Mar	16	1869		64	✓	✓
65	John Thompson	Private	E	22	"		Jan	16	1870		65	✓	✓
66	William Burke	Private					Jan	16	1870		66	✓	✓

RECORD BOOK of

Gravestone No.	NAME.	RANK.	CO.	REGIMENT		DATE OF DEATH		GRAVE MARK		REMARKS				
				NUMBER	PLACE	AGE	MO.	DAY	YEAR	SECTION	NUMBER	ORIGINAL PLACE OF BURIAL		No. of DISINTERMENT
												Locality	State	
67	Osma Windsor	2d Lt	Co	22 U.S. Inf	8	1870				67		✓	✓	
68	Emily Dunning	child			Aug	23	1870			68				
69	Joseph Paulin	citizen			Jan	25	1871			69				
70	James B Gray	Sgt	Co	22 U.S. Inf	Cpl	4	1871			70		✓	✓	
71	Lawrence Hyatt	2d Lt	Co	22	July	25	1871			71		✓	✓	
72	Paul Ott			22	Oct	1	1872			72		✓	✓	
73	Peter A. Kinney	Cpl	B	22	Oct	19	1872			73		✓	✓	
74	Marian	Mexican			Dec	24	1873			74				
75	William C. Knight	2d Lt	B	22 U.S. Inf	25	1874				75		✓	✓	
76	George E. Granger	child			July	9	1874			76				
77	John H. Bryant	2d Lt	Co	142	Aug	20	1874			77		✓	✓	
78	George Wright	2d Lt	I		Feb	4	1875			78		✓	✓	
79	Laurie Dezaire	Indian			May	8	1875			79				
80	John Logan	Cpl	F	142	Dec	11	1875			80		✓	✓	
81	William Gaynes	2d Lt	D	I	Mar	10	1876			81		✓	✓	
82	William H. Hoover	2d Lt	F	I	June	19	1876			82		✓	✓	
83	Christina Griebert	wife of C.S. Sgt			July	5	1876			83				
84	H.B. G. Hiner	infant daughter of G. Hiner			Sept	5	1876			84				
85	Sophia Dezaire	child			Dec	23	1876			85				
86	Robert Olin	2d Lt	D	22 U.S. Inf	Dec		1870			86		✓	✓	
87	Bridget Liddy	child			Aug	2	1878			87				
88	William J. Smith	child			Sept	1	1878			88				
89	Gertrude Jaudel	child			Aug	25	1878			89				
90	Annie Elias	child			Aug	15	1878			90				
91	Mrs M.J. O'Shea				Jan	9	1872			91				
92	Washington Harris	2d Lt	Co	142	July	9	1879			92		✓	✓	
93	Herman Satterfield	citizen			Nov.	29	1879			93				
94	Edw. F. McWilliams	child			July	7	1880			94				
95	John Lynon	child			July	7	1880			95				
96	Willie Garnier	child			July	22	1880			96				
97	Willie Harris	child								97				
98	Josephine St. Clair	infant child of St. Clair			Aug	6	1880			98				
99	David Searge	citizen			Aug	13	1880			99				

Post Cemetery, at Fort Randall, D.T.

Gravestone No.	NAME	RANK	CO	REGIMENT		DATE OF DEATH			GRAVE MARK		REMARKS	
				NUMBER	STATE	AGE	MONTH	DAY	YEAR	SECTION		
										NUMBER		ORIGINAL PLACE OF BURIAL
				LOCALITY	NAME	No. of DISEASE						
100	Infant child of Joseph Clark							Feb	20 1881	100		
101	Infant child of Gustav Weiler							Aug	1 1881	101		
102	Mrs Mary M. Laughlin							Aug	20 1881	102		
103	Thomas C. Donavan	Ordn.	Sgt	U.S.A.				Aug	26 1881	103		
104	Ym Brady	Band	25	U.S. Inf	Regt	6			1881	104	✓	
105	Andrew D. Rothlin	Chaim de transporter						Oct	26 1881	105		
106	Frank A. Curtis	Print	to	25	Inf	Regt	6		May 6 1882	106	✓	
107	James Marklin	Leitzin						June	14 1882	107		
108	Frank St. Clair							July	6 1882	108		
109	Ellen Ann Roman	Inf. child of						June	28 1882	109		
110	Peter T. L. L.	Leitzin						Oct.	24 1882	110		
111	Jason L. L.	Ordn.	25	U.S. Inf	Regt	2			1882	111	✓	
112	Rosea Anderson	Infant daughter						Sept	24 1882	112		
113	C. E. Hooker	Captain	9	Co. Cavalry				January	20 1883	113		
114	John L. L.	Sgt	15	Inf	Regt	20		May	20 1883	114	✓	
115	William L. L.	Inf. child of						May	11 1884	115	buried May 18 1884	
116	Anthony P. L.	Leitzin						July	31 1884	116	buried Aug 12 1884	
117	Infant child of John L. L.							Aug	7 1884	117	buried Aug 12 1884	
118	S. M. Campbell	Civilian						Feb	10 1886	118	buried Feb 12 1886	
119	Rider L. L.	Civilian						July	31 1886	119	buried Aug 12 1886	
120	Human A. L.	Print	15	Inf	Regt	6		March	9 1886	120	buried April 6 1886	
121	Louis J. L.	Infant child of						Jan	21 1886	121	buried Jan 24 1886	
122	Charles L. L.	Print	15	Inf	Regt	6		July	7 1886	122	buried Aug 12 1886	
123	John A. L.	Inf. child of						Dec	25 1886	123	buried Dec 27 1886	
124	James L.	Inf. child of						Nov	11 1887	124	buried Nov 14 1887	
125	Charles A. L.	Inf. child of						Dec	12 1887	125	buried Dec 14 1887	
126	Hall	Inf. child of						Dec	14 1887	126	buried Dec 16 1887	
127	Shannon L.	Inf. child of						Dec	27 1887	127	buried Dec 30 1887	
128	Jacob Herman	Civilian						Jan	12 1888	128	buried Jan 14 1888	
129	Elizabeth M. L.	Inf. child of						July	3 1888	129	buried July 5 1888	
130	Hugo L.	Print	15	Inf	Regt	6		July	10 1889	130	buried July 12 1889	

RECORD BOOK of

[illegible]

APPENDIX II: Correspondence



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF SUPPORT SERVICES
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20315

PICKSTOWN, S. D. 57367

DASU-MEC
Fort Randall Post Cemetery

8 February 1972

Mr. Almon Adam
Commander, Fort Randall-Castle Post 282
The American Legion
Pickstown, South Dakota 57367

Dear Mr. Adam:

This is in reply to your recent letter, in which you requested additional information concerning interments made in the post cemetery at Fort Randall South Dakota.

With reference to the graves of the 21 unknown decedents, records currently available in this Office do not contain any information concerning the circumstances of burial of these decedents. However, we do have information that Fort Randall, Dakota Territory was established in 1856, and that the earliest interment of a named decedent in the post cemetery was made subsequent to 25 August 1856. This interment is recorded in the burial register, pages 129-130 of Burial Registers Posts, Camps and Stations, volume II. Immediately above the entry of the name of the known decedent is the notation of the interment of 21 unknowns. Perhaps these interments had been made before Fort Randall was actually established, or in the very early period of its existence when records of deaths and burials might not have been maintained as carefully as they were during subsequent years of the existence of Fort Randall. The remains of the twenty-one unknown decedents were not removed to the Fort Leavenworth National Cemetery.

This Office maintains a cumulative alphabetic file of reports of interment for all decedents interred in the national cemeteries, and in Army post cemeteries, Confederate plots and soldiers' lots currently under the jurisdiction of the Department of the Army. A search of these records did not indicate burial of the remains of General George H. Cram or General Ambrose Eugene Hooker in any of these burial locations.

Our records do not contain any information as to why the remains of Private E. Benfeldt, Captain A. E. Hocker (Hooker), 2d Lieutenant John A. Breckenridge, and Private Hugo Stabe were not removed to the Fort Leavenworth National Cemetery.

EXHIBIT C

DASU-MEC
Fort Randall Post Cemetery
Mr. Almon Adam

8 February 1972

The Report of The Quartermaster General to the Secretary of War for the year ending 30 June 1893, page 115, indicates removal of the remains of officers and enlisted men from Fort Randall, South Dakota, to the Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, National Cemetery. Additional information in this report, pages 163 and 174, indicates that transfer of lands of Fort Randall from the War Department to the Department of the Interior began in 1884 and was completed on 20 October 1893, when the remaining 92,160 acres were transferred. At the time of the transfer, Fort Randall had 5 barracks with accommodations for 14 officers and 244 men.

The listing of interments in the Fort Randall post cemetery, pages 129-130 Burial Registers Posts, Camps and Stations, volume II, shows the name of Captain A. E. Hooker, 9th U. S. Infantry, who died 20 January 1883. It is believed that this soldier and General Ambrose Eugene Hooker were one and the same person, as Ambrose Eugene Hooker received the brevet rank of brigadier general during the Civil War, but held the rank of captain after that war. The Historical Register and Dictionary of the United States Army-1897--1903, compiled by Francis Heitman, volume 1, page 540, and the Army Register of the United States for One Hundred Years-1779-1879, compiled by Thomas H. S. Hamersly, page 518, both show last rank as captain. The organization is shown in these works as the 9th Cavalry, while Fort Randall burial register shows 9th U. S. Infantry.

Inclosed for your information is a list from the Fort Randall burial register of those decedents whose remains were removed to the Fort Leavenworth National Cemetery in June 1893. These remains were transferred in 68 boxes. The names and pertinent information have been copied from the hand written burial register in the order of their entry in the register.

I trust that this information may prove helpful to you.

Sincerely yours.

1 Incl
As stated

Earl W. Zieg
EARL W. ZIEG
Chief, Operations Section
Cemetery Branch, Memorial Division

**Names of Decedents Removed from Abandoned Post Cemetery
at Fort Randall, Dakota Territory, and Reinterred in
Fort Leavenworth National Cemetery in June 1893. Remains
Transferred in 68 Boxes.**

Name	Rank	Date of Death
1. Hourke, Thos.	Pvt. 2d U. S. Inf.	Aug. 25, 1856
2. Smith, John	Pvt. Co. D, 2d Dragoons	Oct. 3, 1856
3. Montgomery, Francis	Recruit, Co. E, 2d U. S. Inf.	Oct. 18, 1856
4. Price, Edward L.	Sgt. Co. K, 2d Dragoons	Dec. 10, 1856
5. Wright, Edw. T. E.	1st Lieut. Co. D, 2d U. S. Inf.	Oct. 12, 1857
6. Wood, John	Pvt. Co. D, 2d U. S. Dragoons	Dec. 10, 1857
7. Morris, Joseph	Pvt. Co. H, 2d U. S. Inf.	Jan. 22, 1858
8. Keller, Charles	Recruit, 2d U. S. Inf.	Aug. 8, 1858
9. Trine, Jas. P.	Pvt. Co. G, 2d U. S. Inf.	June 24, 1859
10. Harting (Hastings) Daniel	Pvt. Co. M, 4th U. S. Art.	Aug. 1, 1859
11. Cummings, James	Pvt. Co. A, Dak. Vols.	April 8, 1863
12. Kleimmesling, Gerhart	Pvt. Co. A, 6th Iowa Cav.	June 15, 1863
13. Randall, Saml.	Capt. Co. 1, 6th Iowa Cav.	July 22, 1863
14. Trask, Eugene	Pvt. Co. B, 41st Iowa Vols.	Sept. 3, 1863
15. Harrison, John M.	Pvt. Co. E, 6th Iowa Cav.	Oct. 31, 1863
16. Brown, Joseph --	Sgt. Co. D, 6th Iowa Cav.	Mar. 14, 1863
17. Woodward, J. H.	Sgt. Co. G, 6th Iowa Cav.	Feb. 4, 1864
18. Blackman, Austin	Pvt. Co. G, 41st Iowa Vols.	Feb. 23, 1864
19. Folck, John	Pvt. Co. A, 6th Iowa Cav.	Mar. 14, 1864
20. Apple, Charles	Pvt. Co. G, 6th Iowa Cav.	Mar. 24, 1864
21. Castello, Peter	Pvt. Co. A, 6th Iowa Cav.	April 23, 1864
22. Clamvay, Edward	Pvt. Co. M, 6th Iowa Cav.	May 29, 1865
23. Arnold, William	Pvt. Co. K, 6th Iowa Cav.	July 10, 1864
24. Green, Daniel D.	Pvt. Co. D, 6th Iowa Cav.	Sept. 13, 1864
25. Langenhausen, H.	Pvt. Co. H, 6th Iowa Cav.	Oct. 28, 1864
26. Sargent, Geo P.	Pvt. Co. D, 6th Iowa Cav.	Feb. 27, 1865
27. Corbin, J. N.	Pvt. Co. F, 6th Iowa Cav.	July 21, 1865
28. Holmes, Samuel	Pvt. Co. M, 14th Iowa Vols.	Aug. 11, 1865
29. Putnam, Theodore	Pvt. Co. D, 50th Wisc. Vols.	Sept. 16, 1865
30. Gardner, Henry	Pvt. Co. F, 6th Iowa Cav.	Sept. 22, 1865
31. Gunderson, Miles	Pvt. Co. F, 6th Iowa Cav.	Sept. 22, 1865
32. Erickson, Peter	Pvt. Co. H, 6th Iowa Cav.	Jan. 8, 1866
33. Pecker, Perry J.	Pvt. Co. B, 6th Iowa Cav.	Nov. 5, 1866
34. Doyle, John	Pvt. Co. H, 6th Iowa Cav.	April 3, 1867
35. Miller, John	Pvt. Co. F, 22d U. S. Inf.	July 11, 1867
36. Hamilton, Joseph	Major	Aug. 23, 1867
37. Gibson, Robt. A.	Lieut. Co. F, 22d U. S. Inf.	Sept. 23, 1867
38. Pratt, Elias A.	Pvt. Co. F, 22d U. S. Inf.	Mar. 16, 1869
39. Thompson, John	Pvt. Co. C, 22d U. S. Inf.	Jan. 16, 1870
40. Burke, William	Pvt. Co. E, 22d U. S. Inf.	June 16, 1870
41. Windover, Anson	Pvt. Co. C, 22d U. S. Inf.	July 8, 1870
42. Gray, James B.	Sgt. Co. G, 22d U. S. Inf.	April 4, 1871
43. Nugent, Lawrence	Pvt. Co. C, 22d U. S. Inf.	July 28, 1871
44. Ott, Paul	Pvt. Co. K, 22d U. S. Inf.	Oct. 1, 1872
45. Kinney, Peter	Sgt. Co. B, 22d U. S. Inf.	Oct. 19, 1872
46. Roegh, Wm. A.	Pvt. Co. B, 22d U. S. Inf.	Feb. 25, 1874
47. Bezant, John H.	Pvt. Co. C, 1st U. S. Inf.	Aug. 20, 1874

**Names of Decedents Removed from Abandoned Post Cemetery
at Fort Randall, Dakota Territory, and Reinterred in
Fort Leavenworth National Cemetery in June 1893. Remains
Transferred in 68 Boxes.**

Name	Rank	Date of Death
48. Wright, George	Pvt. Co. I, 1st U. S. Inf.	Feb. 4, 1875
49. Logan, Warden F.	Sgt. Co. G, 1st U. S. Inf.	Dec. 11, 1875
50. Gayne, William	Pvt. Co. D, 1st U. S. Inf.	Mar. 10, 1876
51. Cooper, William H.	Pvt. Co. G, 1st U. S. Inf.	June 19, 1876
52. Leibrecht, Elizabeth	Wife of Com. Sgt.	July 5, 1876
53. Haines, H. B. E.	Daughter, Lieut. Haines	Sept. 5, 1876
54. Allen, Robert	Pvt. Co. D, 22d U. S. Inf.	Dec. 7, 1870
55. Harris, Washington	Pvt. Co. E, 1st U. S. Inf.	Jan. 7, 1879
56. McManus, E. F., child		July 7, 1880
57. Child of Joseph Clark		Feb. 20, 1881
58. O'Donovan, Thomas	Ordnc. Sgt. U. S. A.	Aug. 26, 1881
59. Brady, Wm.	Band	Oct. 6, 1881
60. Curtis, Frank A.	Pvt. Co. G, U. S. A.	May 1, 1882
61. Tenor (Terren), Jackson	Pvt. Band, 25th U. S. Inf.	Nov. 2, 1882
62. Reams, John	QM. Sgt., 15th U. S. Inf.	May 24, 1885
63. Jepson, Wm. L.	Pvt. Co. A, 15th U. S. Inf.	May 11, 1884
64. Greening, Herman A.	Pvt. Co. D, 15th U. S. Inf.	Mar. 9, 1886
65. Tharett, Charles	Pvt. Co. A, 15th U. S. Inf.	Sept. 7, 1886
66. Mitchell, Elizabeth	Child of D. M. Mitchell, 1st Lieut. 15 U. S. Inf.	Feb. 3, 1888
67. Renfeldt, Frederick	Co. A, 6th Iowa Cav.	Not shown

Fort Randall Post Cemetery--Dakota Territory

Burial Registers--Posts, Camps and Stations Vol II.

Listing on pages 129-130 for Fort Randall.

Names checked with red check mark in list indicate removal of remains to Ft. Leavenworth National Cemetery in June 1893. Names not checked were not removed. Entries which were not checked are listed as follows:

22--Unknowns

Known interments--remains not removed

1. Dezaire, Ashoha--Colored citizen	Date of death not shown
2. Benfeldt, E. Pvt. Co. A 6th U.S. Inf.	Died 24 Oct 1864
3. Dezaire, George	Died 26 Jun 1867.
4. Dezaire, Sophia	Died 18 Jun 1872
5. Denning, Emily, child	Died 23 Aug 1870
6. Paulin, Joseph Citizen	Died 28 Jun 1871
7. Mexican Musician (found dead on prairie)	Died 24 Dec 1873
8. Granger, Geo. E. Child	Died 9 Jul 1874
9. Dezaine, David Indian interpreter	Died 8 May 1875
10. Dezaire, Sophie Child	Died 22 Dec 1876
11. Liddy, Bridget Child	Died 2 Aug 1878
12. Smith, William J. Child	Died 1 Sep 1878
13. Jaudel, Gertrude Child	Died 25 Aug 1878
14. Elias, Annie Child	Died 15 Aug 1878
15. O'Shea, Mrs. M.J.	Died 9 Jan 1872
16. Satterfield, Herman Citizen	Died 29 Nov 1879
17. Lynch, Peter Child	Died 7 Jul 1880
18. Garnier, Willie Child	Died 22 Jul 1880
19. St. Clair, Josephine, child of Lt St. Clair	Died 1 Aug 1880
20. Scroggs, David Citizen	Died 13 Aug 1880

(page 2, listings of Fort Randall Post Cemetery--Dakota Territory)

21. Child of Gustave Reeder		Died 1 Aug 1881
22. McLaughlin, Mrs. Mary		Died 23 Aug 1881
23. De Rockbrin	Indian Interpreter	Died 26 Oct 1881
24. Marklin James	Citizen	Died 14 Jun 1882
25. St Clair, Frank	Citizen	Died 6 Jul 1882
26. Howard, Ellen Nora	Child	Died 28 Jun 1882
27. Tebadeau, Peter	Citizen	Died 24 Oct 1882
28. Anderson, Rosetta	Child	Died 2 Nov 1882
29. Hocker, A.E.	Capt. 9th U. S. Inf.	Died 20 Jan 1883
30. Fitzpatrick, Anthony	Citizen	Died 31 Jul 1884
31. Child of John London		Died 7 Aug 1884
32. Campbell, L.M.	Citizen	Died 10 Feb 1885
33. Larsen, Rider	Citizen	Died 31 Jul 1885
34. Silber, Louis J.	Child	Died 21 Jan 1886
35. Breckenridge, John A.	2nd Lt. 33 Iowa Vols.	Died 25 Dec 1886
36. Kerman, Jacob	Citizen	Died 19 Dec 1888
37. Stabe, Hugo	Pvt. Co. D 15th U.S. Inf	Died 10 Jul 1889
38. Cook, Sarah M.	(wife of J. M. Cook civilian QM employee)	Died 8 Jan 1890

Sgt. Tract of 41st Iowa Inf. killed by Indians
on E. Iowa Creek in Sept 1863.

March, 1864 Private Folch of C. A., 6th Iowa Cav.
killed by Indians 2 miles from Fort Randall

July 1868 Cattle herder killed by
Indians

January 1867, Major Dryer died of cholera
at the fort.

March 1869 Indians killed a wagoner near
the fort.

July or August 1872 Sgt. McKinney
murdered in fight with another soldier,
while repairing telegraph line north of fort.

In 1877 a post cemetery was laid out
on a hill near the fort.

a picket fence 900 feet long was erected around
the cemetery, the ground was improved by
planting trees and making walks, and 87 new
lettered head boards were placed over the graves.

I. O. Weeks Library - U.S.D.
414 East Clark St - Vermillion, S.D. 57069
S.D. section

S.D. State Library - Pierre, S.D.

S.D. Historical ^{resource} Center (Soldiers Memorial Bldg)
Pierre, S.D.

Historical Resource Center - east Pierre by
truck stop - highway.

Good Western History Department - Denver Public
Library - Denver, Colorado

Dear Sir: —

Above are locations of material on Fort
Randall. The Western History Dept of Denver
had much and since I did not go into much
on the Cemetery I did not ask for that info -
but I would surmise they have a good source.

Almon Adams of Fort Randall area does
have material he is going to send you. You
are welcome to look through my files.

Sincerely
Adeline S. Gnirk

Bruton Ne
6/29/85

Dear Mr. Luck.

I am at present trying to compile
Some information for you.

I do have some registers with
correct spellings as compared to the
lists you show.

Folck is correct

Kerman #36 Should be Herman.

Hocker # 29 Should be HOOKER

I'll be in touch.

Sincerely

Almon B. Adams
Rt 1 Box 40
Bruton Ne 68719.

Lynch, Neb.
June 3, 1985

Edward J. Lynch
Archaeology Laboratory
2032 S. Grange Ave.
Sioux Falls, S. D. 57105

Dear Sir,

I just rented the land around
Farr-Randall and farmed it I
know nothing about the
Cemetery except where it is
located.

As far as I know, I can't help
with any of these questions.

Sincerely
Frank Gehlsen

My mother, Mrs. Anton Musilek had a brother, Frank Burgr. He froze his feet some where east of Ft. Randall in the blizzard of 1888. He was found by an Indian family by the name of Shields. They notified the post surgeon at Ft. Randall that he was at their home and in bad shape, so a group of soldiers crossed the river on the ice and went to get him. The post surgeon had to amputate both legs; there at the Ft. some months later he passed away. He was buried at the Ft. Randall Cemetery. All he ever had was a wooden marker.

Frank Burgr was approximately 21 or 22 years of age because he was just old enough to homestead. He was hauling a load of seed wheat from Tyndall when the storm caught him. His new homestead was in the Geddes area.

By: Julia Bouza
Age 85 - Frank Burgr's niece

In 1913 his sister, husband and family, M. & Mrs. Anton Musilek homesteaded and built a farm-ranch one half mile north of the present site of Pickstown, and it is still owned by family members.

*Don Hooper
Box 414
Lake Andes S. Dak.*



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
THE CHIEF OF MILITARY HISTORY AND THE CENTER OF
MILITARY HISTORY
WASHINGTON, DC 20314-0200
June 24, 1985

REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF

Historical Records Branch

Mr. Edward J. Lueck
Archeology Laboratory
2032 South Grange Avenue
Sioux Falls, South Dakota 57105

Dear Mr. Lueck:

This is in response to your letter of May 31, 1985, regarding the Fort Randall Post Cemetery.

The information requested is not available from this office. It may be included in the official records for your period of interest. Those records are on file in the Navy and Old Army Branch, Military Archives Division, National Archives and Records Administration, Washington, D.C. 20408. Therefore, we are forwarding your letter to that agency for appropriate action and direct reply.

Sincerely,

Janice E. McKenney
Acting Chief, Historical Services Division

National Archives



Washington, DC 20408

202-523-5070

Date July 1, 1985
Reply to
Attn of NNM085-1696-RHG
Subject Cemeterial records of Fort Randall, South Dakota
To Edward J. Lueck
Archaeology Laboratory
2032 S Grange Avenue
Sioux Falls, SD 57105

Your letter of May 31, 1985, has been referred to us for reply by the Army Center of Military History.

The post headquarters records of Fort Randall in our custody include a register of burials in the post cemetery listing some 138 graves, including 22 unknown. This appears to be a different listing than the one included with your letter. The volume also includes two plans of the cemetery, one undated and one dated March 1879. We can provide electrostatic copies of the register entries and the two plans for the minimum mail order fee of \$5.

Remittance by check or money order payable to the National Archives Trust Fund (NNMO), should be mailed to the Cashier, National Archives, Washington, DC 20408. Please return the enclosed copy of this letter when placing your order.

I regret that we are unable to undertake the research necessary to answer your questions regarding record keeping and burial practices. I was unable to find any specifications relating to coffins or other items used in conjunction with burials. I would suggest, however, that you consult Mary L. Williams' article "Care of the Dead (and Lack of It) at 19th Century Posts." published in Volume XIII, Number 1, Whole Number 50 of Periodical: Journal of the Council on America's Military Past, pages 14-30. The journal may be available in research libraries or through interlibrary loan, or the back issue may be available from the Council on America's Military Past, P.O. Box 1151, Ft. Myer, Va. 22211.

I am referring copies of your letter to our Modern Military Field Branch, which has custody of additional burial records of the Quartermaster General's Office, and to our Military Service Branch, which deals with requests for information relating to individuals. You will receive separate replies from each staff if pertinent records are available.

Robert H. Gruber
ROBERT H. GRUBER
Navy and Old Army Branch
Military Archives Division

National Archives



Washington, DC 20409

July 16, 1985

Reply to: NNMF L85-2555-RAL

Mr. Edward J. Lueck
Archaeology Laboratory
2032 S. Grange Avenue
Sioux Falls, SD 57105

Dear Mr. Lueck:

This is in response to your letter of May 31, 1985, which was forwarded to us by the Navy and Old Army Branch.

We have searched the burial records of the Office of the Quartermaster General (Record Group 92) but were unable to locate any information for Fort Randall in South Dakota.

Sincerely,

GEORGE C. CHALOU
Assistant Chief,
Modern Military Field Branch
Military Archives Division

National Archives



Washington, DC 20408

Date : July 17, 1985

Reply to

Attn of : NMS85-2777-MHL

Subject : service records

To : Edward J. Lueck
Archaeology Laboratory
2032 S. Grange Avenue
Sioux Falls, SD 57105

Our Navy and Old Army Branch referred your recent letter to this office for further reply.

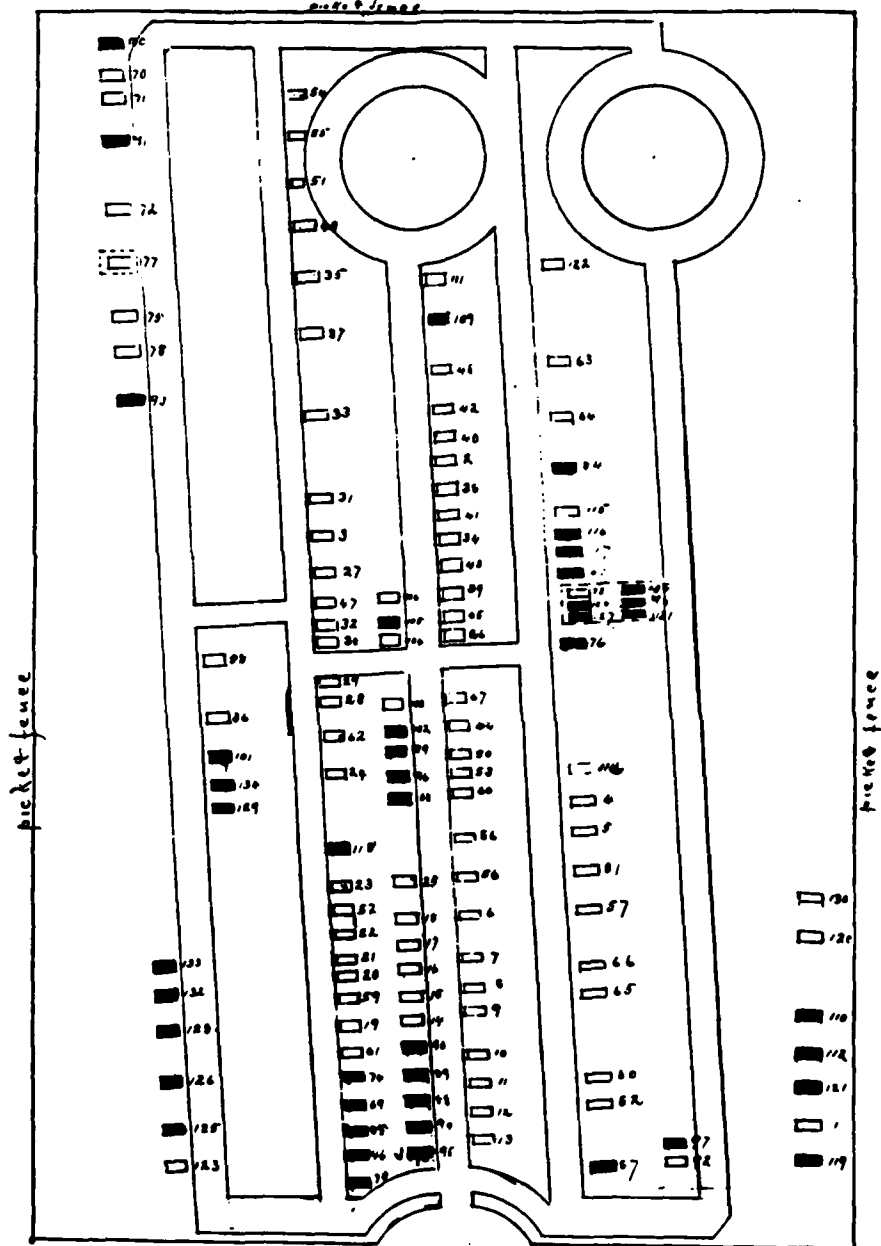
Our branch has custody of service records and pension application files for 19th century servicemen. You can request a search for these records for the military personnel in whom you are interested by completing one of the enclosed Forms 80 for each record requested. We suggest you first request a search for a man's pension application file and request his military record only if no pension file can be found. Military records do not contain personal information about a soldier or his family; pension records often contain a great deal of family information as well as a summary of a man's military record. Some of the civilians listed in your letter appear to be family members of soldiers. The serviceman's pension application may contain some mention of the individuals, but we must know a serviceman's full name in order to locate his file. If you have any questions, please write or call (202-523-3223) me directly.


MAIDA H. LOESCHER
Military Service Branch
Military Archives Division

Enclosures

APPENDIX III: Disposition of the burials in the cemetery

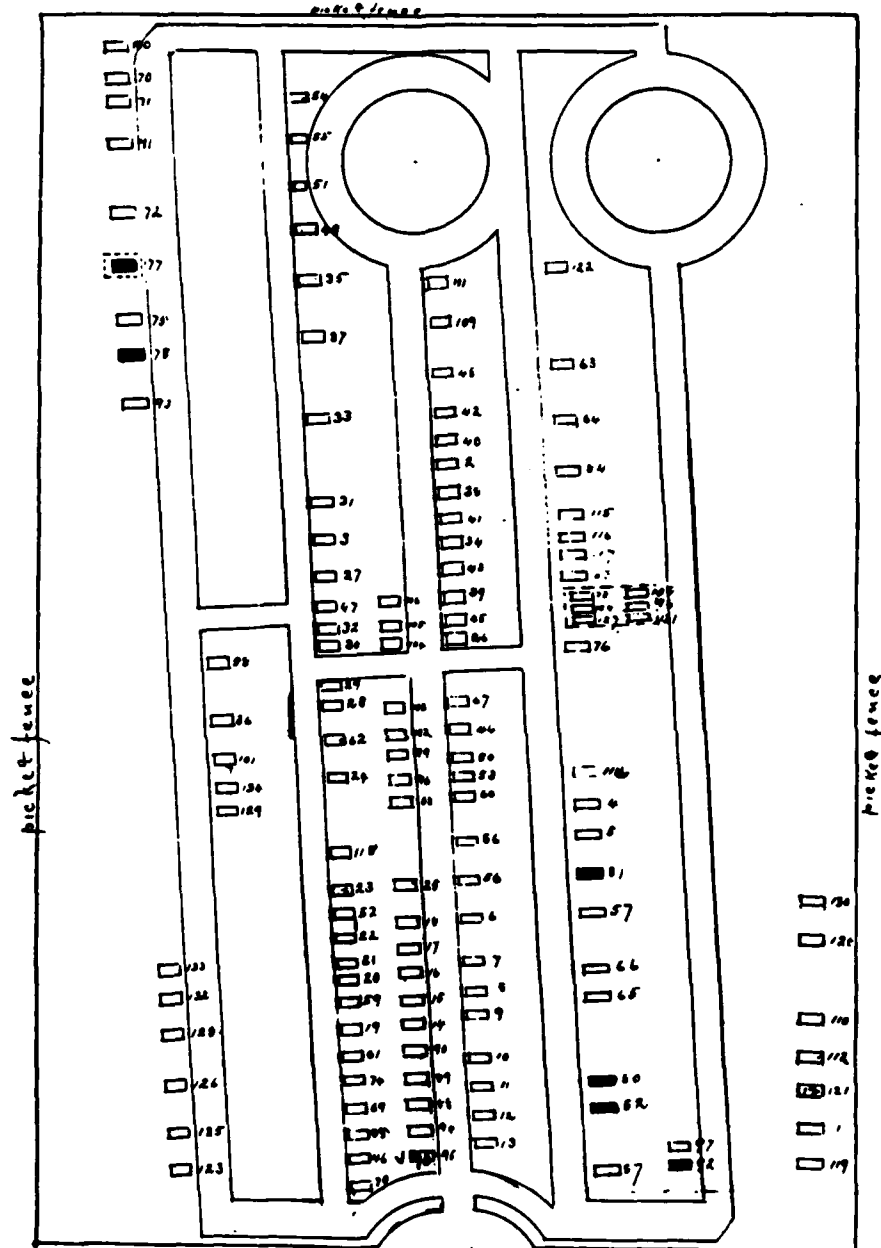
PLAN OF CEMETERY FORT RANDALL S.D.



Scale 30 ft to 1 inch
30 60 90 ft

Recorded civilian graves

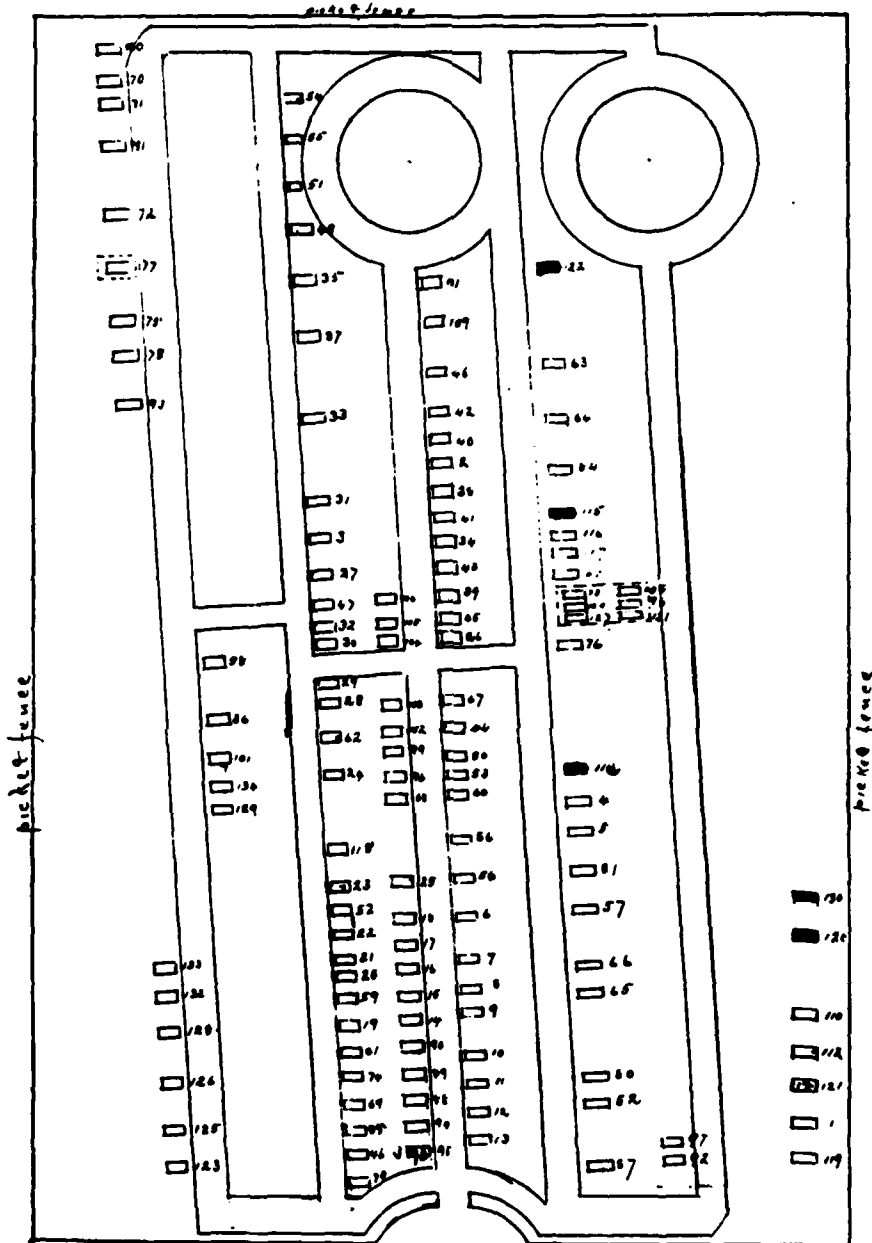
PLAN OF CEMETERY FORT RANDALL S.D.



Scale 30 ft to 1 inch
30 60 90 ft

Graves of the 1st U.S. Infantry

PLAN OF CEMETERY FORT RANDALL S.D.



Scale 30 ft to 1 inch
30 60 90 ft

Graves of the 15th U.S. Infantry

picnic fence

picnic fence

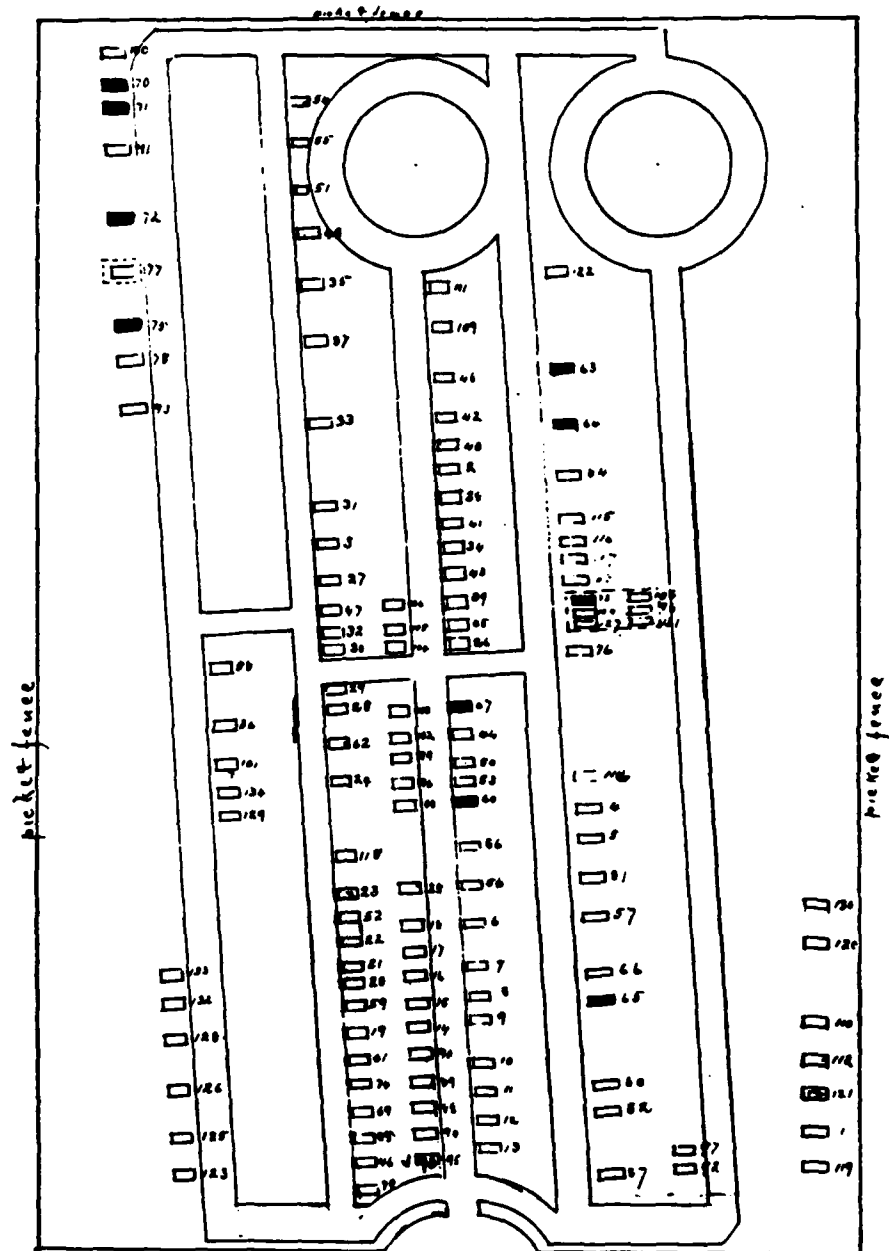
picnic fence

picnic fence

Scale 30 ft to 1 inch

Graves of the 2nd U.S. Infantry

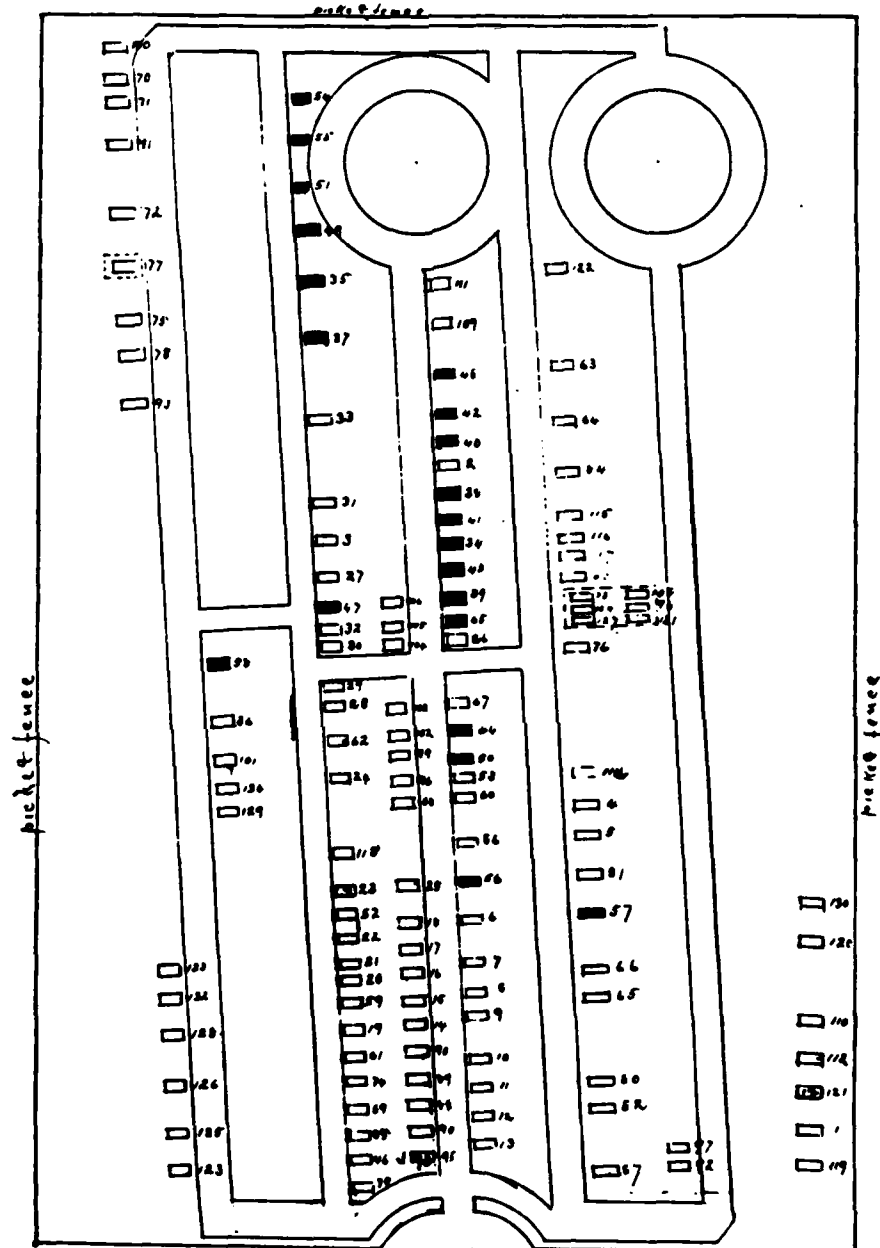
PLAN OF CEMETERY FORT RANDALL S.D.



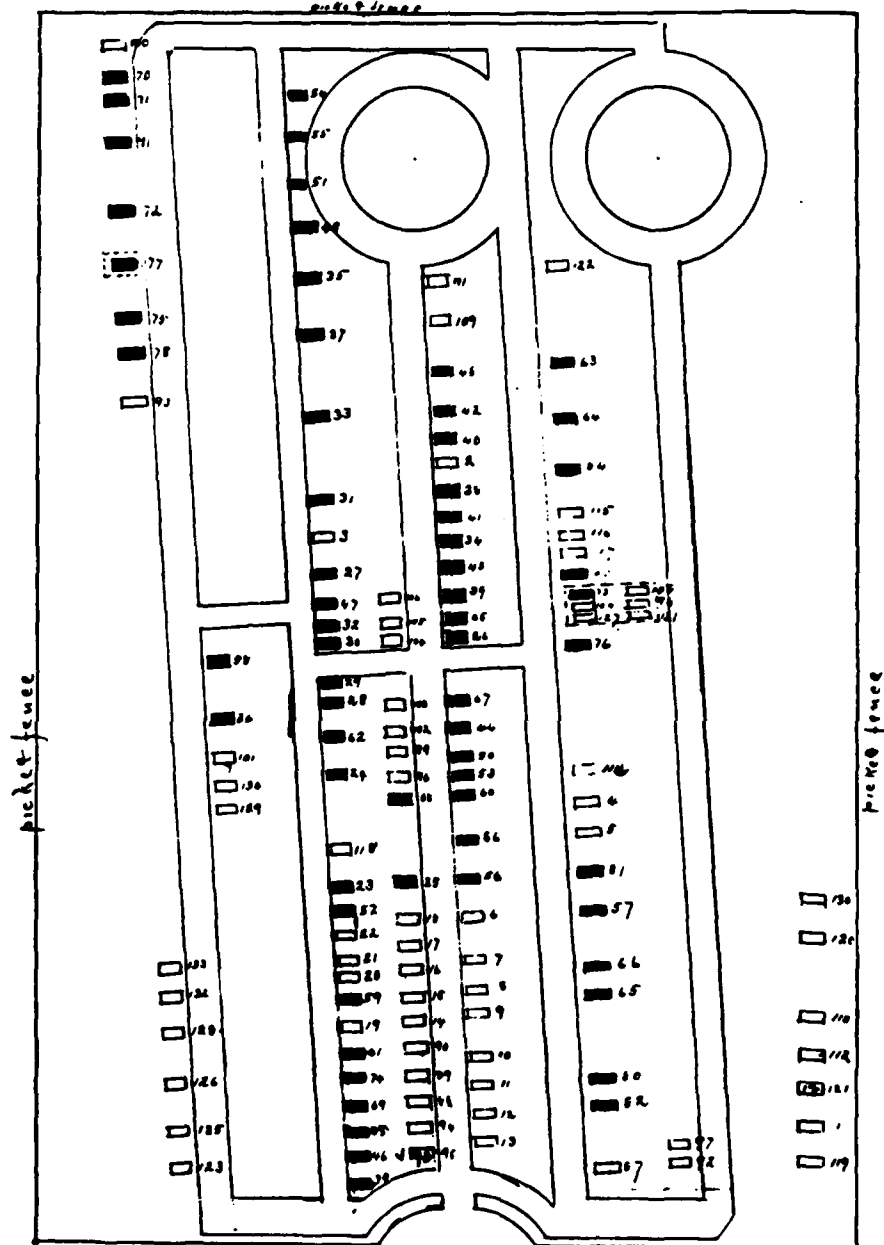
Scale 30 ft to 1 inch

Graves of the 22nd U.S. Infantry

PLAN OF CEMETERY FORT RANDALL S.D.

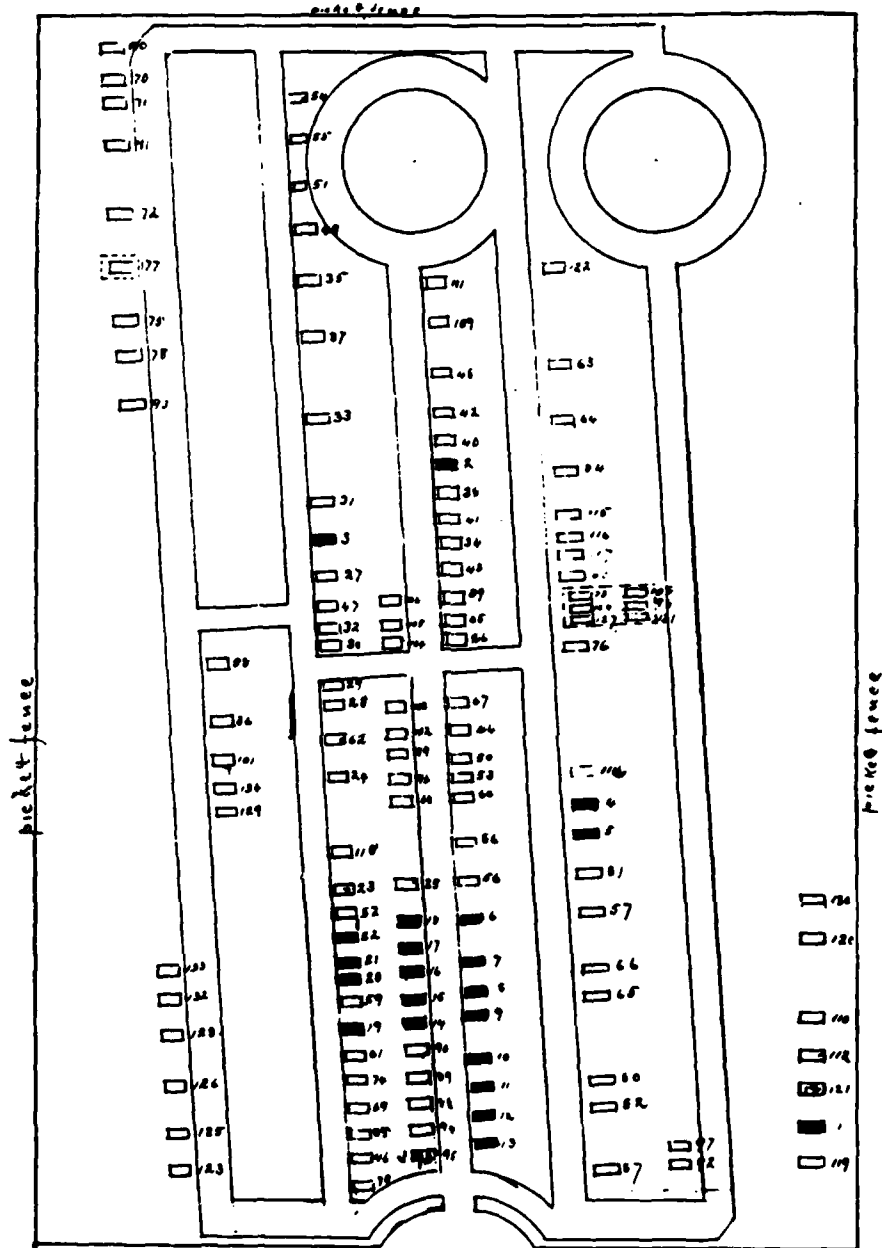


PLAN OF CEMETERY FORT RANDALL S.D.



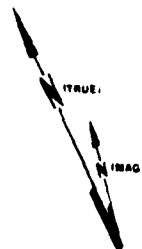
Pre-1877 graves (excluding unknown graves 1-22)

PLAN OF CEMETERY FORT RANDALL S.D.



Unknown graves (1-22)

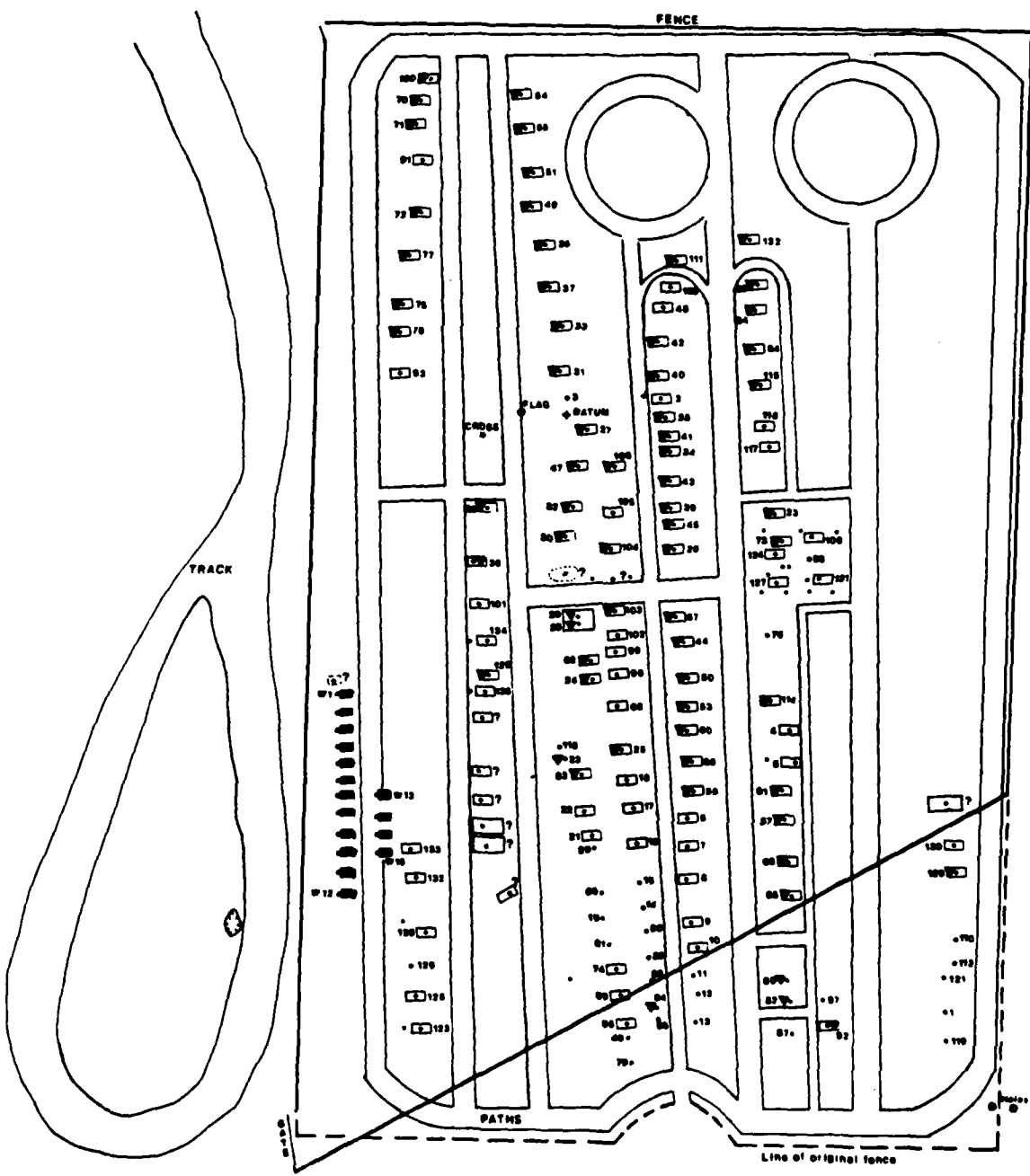
FORT RANDALL POST CEMETERY



0 5 10 M

KEY

- ☐ Graves with depressions
- Graves - no depressions
- ▼ Burial recorded on removed
- Head or foot stone
- Metal post
- 7 Not documented



Unknown graves W1 through W16

APPENDIX IV: Letters sent to informants.

May 31, 1985

Edward J. Lueck
Archeology Laboratory
2032 S Grange Ave.
Sioux Fall, SD 57105

RE: Information on the Fort Randall Post Cemetery.

Dear

The Archeology Laboratory of the Center for Western Studies, Augustana College, Sioux Falls, is conducting a cultural resource investigation and soil resistivity survey of the Historic Fort Randall Post Cemetery, Gregory County, South Dakota. Your name was included in the scope-of-work as a source of information relating to this investigation.

The first problem is concerned with the extent to which the post cemetery was platted. An account indicates that the cemetery was laid out and improved in 1877 (see Kenyon 1950:85). I would like to know if a plat map of the cemetery exists and whether or not subareas (such as grave plots, sections for officers, or sections for different military units) were laid out in the cemetery. It would also be useful to know if there was a systematic procedure for burying individuals in military or post cemeteries insofar as their placement in the cemetery is concerned.

Another problem is the nature of the record-keeping associated with the interment of military personnel. Was a reliable record, such as a burial register, kept at all times? If so, was the record kept on a local basis, such as at Fort Randall, or were cemeteries periodically reviewed by some non-local agent? I have seen the references to the Burial Registers Posts, Camps and Stations, particularly Volume II, pages 129-130, which concerns Fort Randall, but would like to know more about how the information in these registers was compiled. I have a list of the 67 individuals from Fort Randall who were reinterred in Fort Leavenworth National Cemetery in June, 1893, as well as the list of 38 known individuals who were recorded at that time but not removed (Department of the Army, Cemetery Branch, Memorial Division, response to Mr. Almon Adam, dated February 8, 1972).

The letter from the Department of the Army entertains the possibility that accurate burial records might not have been kept in the early days of the fort and that the 21 (or 22) unknown burials at the cemetery might be associated with such a period. This possibility, and the seeming discrepancies in the spelling of names, ranks, and dates of death in the list of individuals recorded in 1893 and in Drips' (1894) account (see attachments), forms part of the motivation for my inquiry.

I would also like to request information you might have on burial practices which may have been employed, systematically or not, in cemeteries such as the post cemetery at Fort Randall. For example, were there standard operating procedures for the interment of individuals, such as specifications of the pit, the use of coffins or particular kinds of coffins, or the use of particular uniforms and/or items of military service? The information requested here is not as crucial as that requested earlier in this letter, but would be quite helpful.

Lastly, conveyance of any information you have on any of the individuals that were--or are--interred at the Fort Randall Cemetery would be most appreciated. Such information would be helpful but presumably not crucial. I have attached information concerning the names of individuals interred and/or associated with the Fort Randall cemetery which may be of assistance.

Your co-operation would be most appreciated.

Sincerely,

Edward J. Lueck

Attachments

References:

- Drips, J. H.
1894 Three years among the indians in Dakota. Brule Index, Kimball.
- Kenyon, Carleton W.
1950 History of Fort Randall. Unpublished MA thesis, Department of History, University of South Dakota.
- Mattes, Merrill J.
1949 Report on historic sites in the Fort Randall Reservoir Area, Missouri River, South Dakota. South Dakota Historical Collections 24:470-595.
- Zieg, Earl W.
1972 Reply to Mr. Almon Adam, dated February 8, 1972. Operations Section, Cemetery Branch, Memorial Division, Department of the Army.

AD-A167 779

CULTURAL RESOURCE INVESTIGATION OF THE HISTORIC FORT
RANDALL POST CEMETER. (U) AUGUSTANA COLL SIOUX FALLS SD
ARCHEOLOGY LAB OF THE CENTER FO. L A HANNUS ET AL.

2/2

UNCLASSIFIED

JAN 86 DACM45-85-M-1527

F/G 5/6

NL



I would also like to request information you might have on burial practices which may have been employed, systematically or not, in cemeteries such as the post cemetery at Fort Randall. For example, were there standard operating procedures for the interment of individuals, such as specifications of the pit, the use of coffins or particular kinds of coffins, or the use of particular uniforms and/or items of military service? The information requested here is not as crucial as that requested earlier in this letter, but would be quite helpful.

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Your co-operation would be most appreciated.

Sincerely,

Edward J. Lueck

Attachments

References:

Drips, J. H.

1894

Three years among the indians in Dakota. Brule Index, Kimball.

Kenyon, Carleton W.

1950

History of Fort Randall. Unpublished MA thesis, Department of History, University of South Dakota.

Mattes, Merrill J.

1949

Report on historic sites in the Fort Randall Reservoir Area, Missouri River, South Dakota. South Dakota Historical Collections 24:470-595.

Zieg, Earl W.

1972

Reply to Mr. Almon Adam, dated February 8, 1972. Operations Section, Cemetery Branch, Memorial Division, Department of the Army.

death in the list of individuals recorded in 1893 and in Drips' (1894) account (see attachments), forms part of the motivation for my inquiry.

Perhaps related to the above, you mentioned in your book (Gnirk 1981) that a prairie fire had burned many of the head boards such that they were unreadable (Gnirk 1981:46). Do you know when this fire occurred?

I would also like to request information you might have on burial practices which may have been employed, systematically or not, in cemeteries such as the post cemetery at Fort Randall. For example, were there standard operating procedures for the interment of individuals, such as specifications of the pit, the use of coffins or particular kinds of coffins, or the use of particular uniforms and/or items of military service? The information requested here is not as crucial as that requested earlier in this letter, but would be quite helpful.

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I am grateful still for your kindness in the past. Your co-operation again would be most appreciated.

Sincerely,

Edward J. Lueck

Attachments

References:

- Drips, J. H.
1894 Three years among the indians in Dakota. Brule Index, Kimball.
- Gnirk, Adeline
1981 Saga of the Missouri River Reveille. Gregory Times-Advocate, Gregory.
- Kenyon, Carleton W.
1950 History of Fort Randall. Unpublished MA thesis, Department of History, University of South Dakota.

Mattes, Merrill J.

1949

Report on historic sites in the Fort Randall Reservoir
Area, Missouri River, South Dakota. South Dakota
Historical Collections 24:470-595.

Zieg, Earl W.

1972

Reply to Mr. Almon Adam, dated February 8, 1972.
Operations Section, Cemetery Branch, Memorial Division,
Department of the Army.

END

DTIC

6-86